Sutcliffe

BBC

THETONG The tale of two titans

The T-shirt named desire

OUESI' in The Long Weekend

Hell hath no fury like the City star stripped of her £1m bonus

Michael Harrison

Nicola Horlick, the City high-flyer dubbed "Superwoman", yesterday embarked on an extraordinary campaign to clear her name of allegations of greed and disloyalty after dramatically quitting her film a year job with a top investment hank. Pursued by reporters and vowing bosses at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell in London hefore flying to Frankfurt, where she demanded a meeting with the parent hank's management committee.

Mrs Horlick, one of the City's most high-powered pension-fund managers and a mother of five, had flown over to Germany to plead her case after being suspended for allegedly trying to poach senior colleagues to join a rival bank in London. The row began on Tuesday with her suspension and escalated yesterday after she resigned to fight the "trumpedup" charges.

Mrs Horlick pledged to get re-instated seek compensation of £1m. She has un legal action for unfair and wrongful dismissal. "I will be heard." she said yesterday. Armed with such resolution, a top-drawer lawyer and one of the financial world's most expensive spin coctors, she arrived at Deutsche Bank's

headquarters yesterday afternoon. Initially the bank said nobody would be available to see her. But it and granted her a two-hour meeting with a senior member of its legal department. Af-terwards she said: "I feel I have had a fair hearing. We had a reasonable con-versation. The (Deutsche Bank) lawyers will now examine the facts that are on the other side. I am happy with that and I am going home to see my children." With that she headed for the airport.

The affair comes after another scandai at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell over unauthorised trading by its former fund manager Peter Young which could cost f4006. Mr Young was dismissed and the Serious Fraud Office is investigating. Ms Horlick said in an interview yes-

terday that she was "the most vocal person in saying Peter Young was a wrong'un" and for that reason she was seen by her bosses as "confrontational". But the bank yesterday insisted she was



suspended for breaches of contract. In a memo to staff at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, the firm's chief executive. Robert Smith, said she had been suspended for "soliciting senior col-

leagues to join a competitor". Ms Horlick believes the charge stems from heing spotted lunching with a friend from a rival bank before Christmas. "There has been a very large misunderstanding. They ... they decided to suspend me on the basis of hearsay," she

said after arriving in Frankfurt.

Ms Horlick's day had began at 8am as she emerged from her home in Kensington, west London to he greeted hy reporters. She accused the bank of "trumping up" charges and set off for the City to confront her hosses.

She swept into her old offices in Bishopsgate an hour and a half later, warned the security guard: "Don't you lay a finger on me" and proceeded to the third floor, to be greeted by her former fund management colleagues. Jaws dropped in astonishment. However, the man she had come to confront, Mr Smith, was not there. She was persuaded to leave the huilding by the head of personnel, Martyn Drain, but left defiantly, declaring: "Justice will be dooe, don't you worry. I was determined that I wasn't going to go the their trumped-up kanga-

roo court today ... Next stop was the hank's head office in London in nearby Finsbury Circus to tackle the chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Michael Dohson.

Forewarned was forearmed. He, apparently, was not there and Ms Horlick failed to get past the security guard, an old pro according to Ms Horlick. "Nor-

man Marks, ex vice-squad." she ex-plained to the journalistic entourage. From there it was on to the airport and a flight out to Frankfurt hut not before Ms Horlick fired off another salvo in the direction of her former employers. "I can't imagine how they could think I cold be so disloyal. I came back a month early from maternity leave. Fortunately my secretary adores habies. I couldo't have shown more commitment. The stand I am taking now is nothing to do with pride. It is to do with what is right

Further reports, page 22

£7m cost as war crimes case fails

86-year-old alleged Nazi war criminal not fit to face trial

Patricia Wynn Davies Legal Affairs Editor

Britain's first war crimes prosecution collapsed yesterday after an Old Bailey jury decided that an 86-year-old man was incapable of standing trial for murder.

been committed for trial by a magistrate on three specimen counts of murdering Jews in 1941-2 during the systematic slaughter of the 3,000 Jewish inhabitants of the Mir district of Byelorussia, now Belarus, while it was under Nazi occupation. The cost to the taxpayer of

seven-man, five-woman jury took two and half hours to decide that the frail and increasingly dishevelled Mr Serafinowicz was unfit to be tried, after hearing medical evidence dementia, probably Alzheimer's discase, which meant he was incapable of iostructing his lawyers, understanding the evidence or following the trial.

neutly staying the proceedings.

had been stage managed.

Mr Serafinowicz's elder son, also called Szymon, said four years of investigation and prosecution had severely damaged

A retired carpenter from Banstead, Surrey, Mr Serafinowicz, settled in Britain after the war with his Polish-born wife. Sir Derek Spencer QC, the Solicitor General, said he had volunteered for the local police force in Byelorussia after the German invasion of the USSR and was promoted by the Germans to district commander of

Page 2

William Clegg QC, said he was only a police sergeant, and had saved people from the Nazis.

prosecution was launched under the controversial 1991 War Crimes Act which allowed war crime charges to brought for the first time in the

Szymon Serafinowicz had

hringing the case was £7m.

After a nine-day hearing, the

Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the Attomey General, immediately entered a plea of nolle prosequi which has the effect of perma-

Nicholas Bowers, Mr Serafinowicz's solicitor, denied his client had faked his condition or that his appearance in court

"My client is an elderly man whose health has deteriorated rapidly in recent years, during which he has suffered the death of his wife and then the incredible pressure of these

proceedings.
"It would have been impossible and unrealistic for my client to endure the physical and mental strain of a lengthy and difficult trial."

his father's mental state.

the unit in Mir, where the Jews were forced into a ghetto.

Mr Scrafinowicz's counsel

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Szymon Serafinowicz:

UK, even though the alleged offences happened ahroad. At committal proceedings at

Dorking magistrates last year, Mr Serafinowicz was committed to stand trial on charges that he participated in the murder of Jews in Mir and two nearby

villages.
The Crown defeated a court challenge last month in which Mr Serafinowicz's legal team claimed the hringing of the prosecution was an abuse of process because, among other things, there was a lack of co-operation from the KGB. By then the issue of Mr Serafinowicz's possible disability had

also been raised. The jury's decision will revive arguments raised in the passage of the War Crimes Bill through the House of Lords, that too many years have passed to make prosecutions involving the Second World War viable or

About £5m has been spent on police investigations by Scotland Yard's War Crimes Unit. The Crown Prosecution Service has spent around £2m on initial myestigations and on more detailed work for the Scrafinowicz and other cases.

The CPS insisted yesterday that decisions on whether to bring five further potential prosecutions would be reached on their individual facts. Supporters of the legislation urged cases to be hrought on their merits. Lord Merlyn-Rees, a former

Home Secretary and chairman of the all-party Parliamentary War Crimes Committee, said: "If there is evidence which will stand up in a court of law, then future prosecutions should take place, irrespective of what happened at the Old Bailey."

A Nazi killer? page 3

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J. D. Salinger publishes his first novel for 34 years

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

The scoop does not belong to Simon and Schuster, Random House or any other New York behemoth. Instead, for reasons as usual known only to himself, ID Salioger that Howard Hughes of literary America has chosen an obscure and tiny Virginia publishing house. Orchise Press, to issue his first book in 34 years. Or rather, re-issue. In truth Hapworth 16, 1924 - only the fifth book to appear un-

novella, the hyper-precocious ruminations of a boy aged sev-. en in a letter to his family. Now its author has deemed it fit to appear as a book next month.

Inevitably, the obsession with privacy of this 78-year-old recluse, who lives in a remote village in New Hampshire, has bred its own mysteries. For instance, why Orchise Press? Its editor, Roger Lathbury, will not say, nor give any clue to the planned print run, or advance orders received. No review copies will be sent out, no phoder the name of Jerome David Salinger - first appeared in the New Yorker magazine of 19 cover. Indeed, rumour has it er in the Rye and the Chapman

June 1965. It is a 20,000 word Salinger insisted his name case. "Somewhere buried in it novella, the hyper-precocious should appear vertically, to dimight he the key to Salinger's minish its impact.

That however is improbable. The Catcher in the Rye, the 1951 novel of teenage angst and sexuality in post-war America which gave him worldwide fame, still sells 400,000 copies a year. One devotee was Mark David Chapman, the murderer

of John Lennon. Hapworth 16, 1924, will be equally dissected. "The Dead Sea Scrolls of the Salinger cult." the critic Ron Rosenhaum called it in the New York Obto of the writer will adorn its server, in an essay on The Cauchmysterious silence ever since."

Since then only three further books have appeared, the last of them Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters in 1963. Salinger is still said to spend 15 hours a day at his typewriter, but the fruits of those labours are as impenetrable as everything else about him. Only in the mid-80s was he once smoked out of his lair, to block publication of a biography by Ian Hamilton which contained extracts from letters which the author argued were protected by copy-

QUICKLY **Brittan warning** Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, gave the Tories a highly-charged warning to lay off Europe as an election issue. There were no vote in it. "For

Balloon let-down Libya refused American millionaire Steve Fossett permission to fly his balloon over its land, forcing him to make a long detour in his attempt to fly around the world and almost certainly jeopardising any chance of success.

God's sake, lay off," he told the



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② 🚳 😡 •

AERCURY ARTCALL

Duchess weighs in to row over Beatrice's diet



Anthony Bevins Political Editor

ropean Commission.

down this road.

Abrams.

The Conservatives were yes-

terday given a highly charged warning to lay off Europe as an

election issue by Sir Leon Brit-

tan, vice-president of the Eu-

Directly challenging the de-

cision by John Major to portray

Lahour as Brussels' poodles, a

pushover for further European

integration, while he is ready

and eager to defend British in-

terests. Sir Leon said: "For

God's sake lay off. Let's not go

it will damage British interests...

It is a blind alley that will not

"blue water" between the Con-

servatives and Labour would

not work because the Labour

Party had shown its ability to

Teresa Gorman, Conserv-

ative MP for Billericay, who will

present a Bill calling for a ref-

erendum on Tuesday, is be-

lieved to have been told that

if she does not withdraw she

could find an official *Con-

servative" candidate standing

against her at the general

With Euro-sceptic support

apparently increasing on

Government back benches, party officials are worried that

her move will cause further

splits in the party. A Bill introduced by Bill Cash earlier this year won 70 votes. A re-

peat of that so close to an

election would be deeply

There have also bean

claims that other Euro-scep-

"creep up" on the Tories. "If there is to be a Dutch auc-

He said that attempts to put

There are no votes in it, and

The Duchess of York ran into trouble with a British slimming organisation vesterday after disclosing she had told her eight-year-old daughter Princess Beatrice to lose weight.

Within 24 hours of the announcement that she had been signed up by Weight Watchers in the US - for a reported fee of a million dollars - she said she had used some of its ideas on her "chunky" elder daughter. After seeing her in a swimsnit, she told her to cut out bread. chips and fizzy drinks, she said.

Yesterday the United Kingdom arm of the company made clear its disap-proval. Linda Huett, vice president of the UK firm, said: "Weight Watchers UK does not believe that children should ever be encouraged to diet."

Brittan warns

Tories to lay

off Europe

Attempts to

distinguish

between the

parties doomed

tion of Euro-scepticism," Sir Leon warned, "whoever wins the election will be left with a

legacy of commitment that will

make the inter-governmental

Sir Leon's controversial in-

tervention in the British general

election campaign reflects a

recent European Commission

decision to take a high profile in defending itself from ex-pected attack during the

That decision and Sir Leon's

attack will be most unwelcome

to British ministers who are cur-

rently showing acute sensitivity to European issues - to the point of making heavy threats

been critical of her stand.

me with white faces and

staring eyes and saying I am

going to lose the election for

Mrs Gorman, whose con-

stituency now includes a

third of the highly marginal

Basildon after boundary

changes, said voters in the

area were telling her that

they wanted Europe to be

made an election issue.
There has to be some rea-

son why we are 20 points be-hind in the polls when the

economy is in a good state." Other Euro-sceptics de

nied last night that they had

been put under pressure. Sir

George Gardiner, who voted against the Government on

the Maastricht Bill, said he

them," she said.

*People keep coming up to.

Election warning to Gorman

over referendum debate

launched a desperate effort Although Mrs Gorman did

to avert a new row over Eu- not comment on the whips'

liament prepare to debate the terday that some colleagues

issue next week, writes Fran with small majorities had

tics have been under pres- had not been approached.

Government whips have sure not to support her.

conference more difficult."

Children under 10 were barred from its slimming clubs and those between 10 and 16 needed written permission from their family doctor as well as parental consent, she said.

Talk of a diet for Princess Beatrice came a day after the Duchess spoke of feelings of "hopelessness" about her weight problems as she was named the new public face of Weight Watchers. The deal involves the Duchess promoting the benefits of achieving a "healthy weight" to the US public. She will not he doing so for the separate, UK Weight Watchers organisation.

A spokesman for the Duchess said her comments were taken out of context and reflected "normal" advice given hy mothers to children about eating.

against Tory MPs who might be

tempted to vote for Teresa Gor-man's referendum Bill in the

But the attack, delivered during a lunch held at the commission's London office, went even further with a warning that the British could not block further European integration. Sir Leon also tried to reassure the Government that the chance of more legislation like that on the Social

legislation like that on the Social

Chapter was very small indeed. Sir Leon said the Govern-

ment's attitude towards Eu-

rope was not so much annoying

as "mystifying", showing an un-

justified nervousness and lack of

He also said it was a "com-

plete error" to think that talk of

renegotiation of the Maastricht

treaty strengthened the British

hand: "Those who think that

our partners would be so terri-

fied of this prospect that they

will lie down in a supine fash-

ion because the taboo of rene-

gotiation has been lifted are

living in Cloud-cuckoo-land."

senior Conservatives that

Britain could stop further Eu-

ropean integration, he said that,

too, was mistaken. While there

could be no coercion of the mi-

nonty, equally there could be no

possibility of a minority such as Britain holding back the ma-

jority if it wanted to move

mained behind, that raised the

"nightmare scenario of the last

300 years" of European histo-

ry, in which Europe exerted a

major influence over Britain,

while Britain had no control

over what was happening. Repudiating the "myth" that

commissioners were civil ser-

vants, who should not intervene

in domestic political issues, Sir

Leon said that that had never

been the case for commission

members, who had nearly all

been active in politics before

Equally, if Britain always re-

As for the view held by some

self-confidence.

Commons next Tuesday.

the Duchess said the contract required her to "keep and maintain a healthy diet so 1 can keep fighting fit". She admitted being wounded by being dubbed "the Duchess of Pork". She would not confirm reports she would receive a million dollars a year (£660,000) under the deal. In the later interview in New York, the Duchess said: "I very much fear Beat-

initely can pack it on a bit." Recalling a recent holiday, the Duchess went on: "When she put on her swimsuit, we nonced she was kind of

"I mean, she is only eight, but she def-

rice is hlessed with her mum's genes.

appearing a hit chunky. "So I began explaining a little of the Weight Watchers' regime. I said: "OK.

'At a news conference in New York. that's it. From now on, today only, no bread. And no more fizzy drinks. She added: "Poor Baby. I think over-

eating sort of runs in the family." Ms Huett said Weight Watchers UK had very strict procedures" about slim-ming advice for children. These included insisting that the youngster's own GP set the "goal weight" at the outset. Young people also had to be accompanied by a parent or guardian when attending

The spokesman for the Duchess said: "She was really suggesting that healthy eating was important, and was in no way suggesting a diet. This was a normal conversation between a mother and daughter which has been blown way out of

significant shorts

Parents of missing girl arrested

The mother and stepfather of schoolgirl Zoe Evans were being questioned by police last night about her Paula Evans, 28, and her husband, soldier Miles Evans,

23, were arrested yesterday by Wiltshire police. Det Supt Colin Dixon told a press conference in Warminster: "Our inquiries into the disappearance of nine-yearold Zoe Evans are continuing. She has not been found. Inquiries to trace her will continue and we still require from the public regarding any sightings or her

Battle looms

Labour will fight the Government over controversial plans on police surveillance next week, the party's home affairs

spokesman said yesterday.
As a result, ministers could find themselves facing defeat when the Police Bill is dehated in the House of Lords, Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, said Labour peers would oppose measures that would allow the police to "bug and hurgle" private property without prior consent. The party had previously supported the measures, hut changed its stance on Thursday. Fron Abrams

Mugger gets eight years

A member of a teenage gang, who stabbed and nearly killed the husband of the Director of Public Prosecutions during a street mugging, was sentenced to eight years' custody at Knightsbridge Crown Court yesterday.

The 17-year-old youth, who was 15 at the time of the assault in May 1995, attacked 58-year-old John Mills with a butterfly knife, severing an artery in his abdomen and piercing his liver. Mr Mills managed to stagger 100 yards the last of his six firearms to his home in north London, over to gardal. where he collapsed into the arms of his wife Barbara.

First divorce

Ireland's first divorce since a 1995 referendum approved its introduction was granted by the High Court in Duhlin even though legislation en-acting it does not take effect until next month. In a private hearing the court ruled that the divorce law derived from, the Constitution and not legislation. It heard the applicant, an unnamed man who is seriously ill, wanted to regularise his second relationship. and had made provision for his family. His wife did not want to be divorced hut did

Pop star in ecstasy storm is sacked

Brian Harvey has been sacked by the other three memhers of East 17 because of his "unacceptable behav-

His recent remarks about drugs to the media have forced the other three members to demand that Brian leaves the band, Massive management said in a statement last night.

Junior Home Office Minister Tom Sackville said earlier in the Commons that it might be possible to prosecute the singer over the remarks because it was an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Acı 1971 to incite another to take drugs. Mr Harvey has since apologised for his remarks.

over Police Bill VAT blow for haemophiliacs

The parents of haemophiliac children who are demanding a purer and safer form of Factor VIII, received a setback to their campaign yesterday after a tribunal ruled that the blood product should be subject to VAT.

Generically-engineered recombinant Factor VIII is now the treatment of choice for hacmophiliaes, but it is more expensive than the plasma-derived version, and the decision to impose VAT would further discourage health authorities from purchasing it. The Haemophilia Society said it would appeal direct to the Chancellor to overturn the decision. Liz Hunt

in Ireland not contest the application.

Irish house siege ends

The terminally-ill mother of the 43 year-old German at the centre of a siege in the Irish Republic died soon after three hailiffs were shot trying to evict the pair from their remote cottage near Ballyconnell, Co Cavan. it emerged yesterday. The 44hour siege ended vesterday morning when Gerrit Isenborges handed himself and

Lottery funding threat

Lottery-funded arts projects are in danger of "grinding to a halt" because of lack of support from the business community. Many arts venues that have received lottery money also have to find "partnership funding" from private sources. Lortery money is only allocated on the basis that a further sum is rasied from the private sector. Research from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, shows that sponsorship suffered a startling drop from £13.9m in 1994-95 to £5.3m last year despite the need for extra funds. David Lister

He will now have to take a longer route around the snuthern tip of the north African country their appointment. But the commission has also a detour which is almost certain to force him to land before he completes his circumnavigation. decided that its officials, such as The news, following hours of negotiation and Geoffrey Martin, head of the "He's not giving np. He's going to continue," said a spokeswoman at the ground control in Loy-European Commission office in London, should he allowed to nia University, Chicago, last night.

Mr Fossett's is the third attempt in a fortnight give interviews during the election campaign - to correct false to be first to circle the world by balloon. The first, impressions left by any of the by a team including Richard Branson, failed just

The attempt by the American millionaire Steve

Fossett to fly a balloon around the world were

punctured yesterday by the refusal of the Lihyan authorities to allow his to fly over the country.

19 hours after taking off in Morocco. The sec-

Charles Arthur

STEVE FOSSITT

Gaddafi sends balloonist's bid

for world record off course

ed after six bours.

Bo Kemper, the project manager at the ground control, said that the extra fuel necessary will mean that the balloon would probably have to put down in India. The consolation, he said, was that Mr Fossett will probably set a solo endurance record by balloon, currently just over

ond, by a team taking off from Switzerland, end-

an attempt by Mr Branson to secure permission for his rival - came after Mr Fossett broke his own hallooning distance record of 5,435 miles.

His attempt is a distinctly low-profile one compared to those of the previous two failures: he is flying alone, rather than in a team, and his halloon is smaller and flying at a lower height.

Councils may get new powers on poor schools

embarrassing.

Local authorities may be given new powers to take back financial control stealing its clothes, saying Mrs Shepof under-performing schools, Gillian hard had been forced to respond to its Shephard, Secretary of State for Education said yesterday. Her speech to the Society of Education Officers' conference in Harrogate comes as the Calderdale local authority for not a school's hudget only if it seriously mis-

he tougher on had schools intensifies. Labour accused the Government of party hroadcast this week, which in-cluded failing schools. Before Christ-

acting over Ridings School, where discipline collapsed. Now she appeared to be conceding that councils needed new powers to deal with failing schools. Inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) go into Calderdale on Monday. At present mas, Lahour said, she attacked councils can take over the running of

manages its affairs. Around 90 per cent of funding is delegated by councils to schools. Mrs Shephard told education officers she is considering given authorities power to take over budgets of schools where standards are low.

Action would he taken not just against schools judged by inspectors to be failing but also those which have

have difficulty improving. About 2 per cent of schools have been pronounced a failure by inspectors; a further 8 per

cent have serious weaknesses.

In a white paper in June, the Government proposed local authorities should have power formally to warn schools with serious weaknesses.



Germany DM4.5 Sweden.... Skr21

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The next generation of ferry company

lan Burrell and

Patricia Wynn Davies

For a British jury, it would have been difficult to see the

tiny octogenarian with a hear-

ing aid as a mass murderer who

had taken part in the slaughter

flew in the spring of 1990 from

Cape Town, Tel Aviv and Siberia

to give evidence against Szymon Serafinowicz at committal pro-

ceedings remembered a differ-

ent figure from the man in the

flat cap and grey fur coat sitting

in the quiet Surrey courtroom.

leather-jacketed policeman in his

early thirties who rode through

their villages on a white horse.

He carried a whip and a pistol,

with a bayonet protruding from

one of his long black boots.
During 27 days of often tear-

ful evidence in the hearings at

Dorking magistrates' court, they

told Peter Badge, the chief

metropolitan magistrate, how

they saw their friends and fam-

ilies massacred in what were

known as "Jewish Actions" in

There were 3,000 Jews living

in Mir and the surrounding vil-

lages at the time of the German

invasion of the western sector of the former Soviet Union in

June 1941. By August 1942 there were virtually none left.

Mr Serafinowicz, who was

yesterday found by an Old Bai-ley jury to be unfit to plead to

war crimes charges, had been

born eight miles from Mir. He

held jobs on a farm and as a mill

foreman before the Germans

drove out the Russians. Then he

was "among those who decid-

ed to throw in his lot with the

Nazis", according to John Nut-ting QC, for the prosecution.

ferred to describe the force he commanded as a "defeoce"

force against the Russians or

partisans. He was posted to

Baranovichi in the spring of

1943 where he was involved in

2,000 Jews had been murdered

in Mir on 9 November 1941 in

atrocious scenes. "Jews were

there were three principal execution sites - the main square,

back of the Polish school and a

large sand pit near a medieval

who had worked in the police

station and for the defendant,

had seen Mr Serafinowicz with

a group of armed police early

Ze'ev Szraiber, a decorator

fortress on the outskirts."

an anti-partisan unit.

Mr Nutting describ

Mr Serafinowicz always pre-

Nazi-occupied Belarus.

They recalled a handsome,

But the elderly wimesses who

of innocent civilians.

Nutting said.

Also giving evidence would be

Lev Ahramovsky, 71, who now

lives in Los Angeles. He was 16 at the time of the atrocities.

Speaking with the aid of an in-

terpreter, he told the Dorking

court last year that on that day

in November, he had witnessed

the massacre in Mir, his home

town. He hid in a barn and

watched his mother and father,

and other Jews, being marched

to a sand-pit and shot by local police and Germans.

ered and marched off. "They

started shooting at us. We all fell

into the pit. People who were shot

fell on top of me and I fell un-

derneath. I lost consciousness."

round: "I could feel that I was

alive. I was lying under the bod-

ies. Some people were still

alive. Blood was pouring, some

of the people were morning. 1

was near the up, there were just

a few people on top of me. !

As the young Abramovsky

pulled himself out of the pit, he

realised the horror of what he

6 In Mir on

9 November 1941

Jews were shot

all over town,

but there were

three principal

execution sites 9

had experienced: "I tried to

wash my eyes, they were stuck together with blood. Then I was sick because I had swallowed

Mr Serafinowicz claimed he

to shoot." But Regina Bedyns-

ka. 70, told the magistrate she

had been hiding in an attic

emerged from the house to get

water from a well, she saw the

afmowicz I saw four Jewish men

and one Jewish woman with a

child approach. I knew they

were Jews as they had stars on

their clothing," she said. "They were running towards the fields."

Mrs Bedynska said Mr Ser-

"When I went past Mr Ser-

lots of blood."

shot all over the town; but during the massacre. When she

that morning. As they passed a afinowicz had pulled up his rifle, Jew on a street corner, two of taken aim and fired, shooting the

the old slaughterhouse at the police commander.

managed to get out.

Soon afterwards he came

Later that day he was discov-

Could this frail

the group shot the Jew dead, Mr woman. She said: "He shot and

the woman fell on top of the

child. She lay there, she didn't

move. The child came nut from

under her. The child was seven

nr eight years old. The child was

speaking in Polish, saying Mum-

my get up. Mummy get up'."
Menachem Shaley, who was

then 13, also said he had seen Mr

Serafinowicz that day. He told

the magistrate that he watched

Jews being herded into the Mir slaughterhnuse, where 720 were murdered. He said he listened

to the shots. From the window

of his home Mr Shalev said he

saw Mr Serafinowicz, standing

alone, in a black leather coat

bending over a short-harrelled

German machine gun, which he

was holding in front of him with

William Clegg QC, for the defence, had told Mr Badge:

"Against this hackground no

dishonourable motive can be as-

sumed on behalf of local

residents who joined the local

The prosecution disagreed.

Special duties, for example

the murder of Jews, were ad-

ministered by Serafinowicz him-

self, and it was he who hand

picked the policemen for such duties," Mr Nutting said, Oswald Rufeisen, 73, who hid

his Jewish idenoty and became

Mr Serafmowicz's interpreter,

said his employer was not anti-

Semitic and had acted like an el-

der brother towards him. But Mr

Rufeisen, now a Roman Catholic

monk living in Israel, told the

magistrate how Mr Serafinowicz

had takeo part in the rounding

up of the Jews in two villages.

Kryniczne and Dolmatowszczy-

zana, to be shot in the snow.

use sticks or force," he said.

both hands.

police force."

nificant shorts

Pop star in ecstasy sto is sacked Brian Harve, havber members of Egg / 2

of his "unaccertable." His recent remain The in the medials. proced the other three hers to demand this p ices on the band, Ma management widing June Home One to 7 to Sucionible said to the Common the first something to the temps

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Lottery funding three

- 1.5

independently on their own There are five active investigations in the pipeline, four of which CPS war crimes specialists believe could result in viable cases to put before juries. One, involving the activities

the committal. But the service

insisted future cases, not all of

which involved potential de-

fendants as old as Szymon Sera-

finowicz, would be judged

Patricia Wynn Davies

of a deputy police commander in former Byelorussia (now Be-The collapse of the Serafinow-icz case is a hlow for the Crown larus), has been recommended for prosecution, although fur-Prosecution Service which was ther material is being gathered planning to call 30 witnesses at before the Attorney General, trial, including four new wit-nesses who had not testified at who must sanction all prosecutions, is asked to give a decision.

Reign of terror: Life in Belarus under the NazisPhotograph: David King Collection

The other investigations include a further case involving Belarus, one concerning a mobile killing unit in Ukraine, and another involving events at Mauthausen concentration camp in Austria. Mauthausen was the only Category 3 concentration camp, where the Nazis sent people they considered totally incapable of converting to their cause.
The CPS has so far spent

Crimes Act was passed and on detailed work on the Serafinowicz and other cases. The investigations began with an examination of 369 potential cases. But 112 of the potential defendants had died. The ser-

around £2m on initial investi-

gations after the 1991 War

the villages of the area."

vice also took the decision not to prosecute cases of single killings, as opposed to participation in multiple or mass murder. Ten cases were identified for detailed investigation and police officers and lawyers hegan visits to Belarus and other Eastern European countries. A prosecution source said the

CPS could "live with" the result in the Serafinowicz case because

> instincts of the trading floor, then exploded with a frenzy of higher and higher bids for that ultimate prize, The Bank That Gave

> Merrill Lynch does the same". And so the bidding grew to a climax. when all the bankers concerned said each hank would give £25,000 - as long as Goldman Sachs, one of America's most profitable houses, would do the same.

"We will!" chirruped the man from Goldman, drowned in cheers of victory. Not since the pound plunged out of the ERM has London seen such a lively market.

old man have been a Nazi killer?

صكنا من الاعل

Serafinowicz: More than half a century after the Nazi occupation of Belarus, he was called to account for his actions. He always maintained he tried to stop the killings of Jews

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■ New full seven-day television listings in the award-winning Sunday Review For further details see page 9 of today's Long Weekend

had tried to stop the killing. He said: "I uy my everything to save that people ... I didn't shoot anybody. I didn't give any orders he received from the his position he had to he good Germans. I put the emphasis on the word blind." Under cross-examination, he said he had a "confused picture" that included Mr Serafinowicz standing in the line. He also men accompany them with agreed that he had not seen the shovels to the murder site. actual shooting at Kryniczne. Mr Nutting told the Old Bailey jury that the massacres at Kryniczne and Dolmatowszczy-

zana followed an order received at Mir police station from German headquarters. "Its effect was to order the liquidation of the remaining Jews scattered in

Cases to

go ahead despite

the defendant had been com-

mitted for trial on the strength

of detailed evidence, and the Crown had won a crucial argu-

ment in a hearing last month

that a trial would not be an

ahuse of process hecause it

could not be fairly conducted so

It would have been technically

possible for the Crown to have

pressed on with what is known

as a "trial of the facts" in the Ser-

afinowicz case in the absence of

the defendant. But Sir Derek Spencer, the Solicitor General, told the judge yesterday that this would be "wholly inappropriate

in a case such as this, where the

disability arises because of old

long after the event.

They went like sheep to the slaughter. There was no need to There was snow on the ground at the time of the Kryn-His explanation for his employer's behaviour was simple.

"He was loyal to the Germans,"
he said. "If he wanted to keep iczne massacre on 17 January 1942, so horsedrawn sledges were prepared for the journey. Mr Nutting said. Mr Serafioowicz was in charge of the policemen, who were all armed with pistols or automatic rifles. up and shot. At Dolmatowszczyzana, where more than 40 Jews were ordered to lie face down in the snow and shot, the police demanded that young

> Mr Clegg, for Mr Serafi-nowicz, told the jury that in instructions to lawyers in 1995 his client had admitted being in Mir on 9 November 1941 but had not participated in the killing of Jews. He also denied he was present in Kryniczne or Dolmatowszczyzana when Jews



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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Bankers in charitable frenzy

City hankers pledged £300,000 in just 10 minutes to Save the Children on Thursday night, the biggest single fund-raising exercise the charity has ever seen.

At the same awards dinner last year, hosted by IFR, a specialist investment magazine, a paltry £30,000 was collected by comparison. The contrast demonstrates how John Major's "feel-good" factor is gathering pace in the Square Mile if nowhere else.

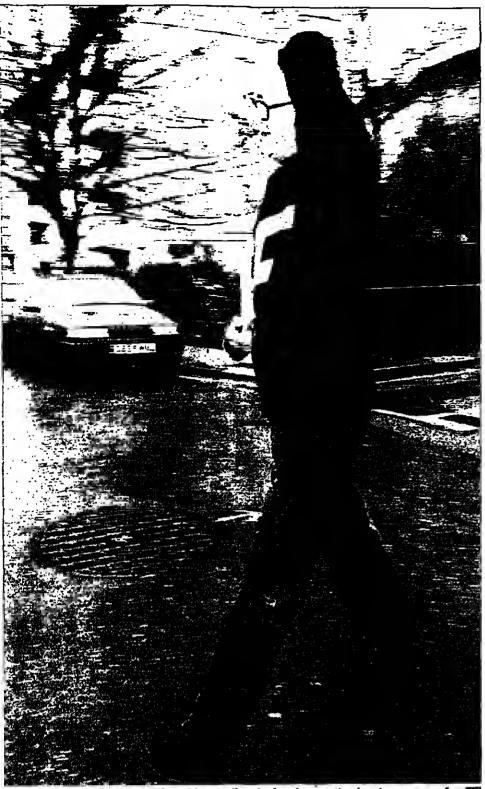
The dinner, hosted by TV personality Clive Anderson, was going quietly enough,

as bankers hid for a succession of novelty items, including a leddy bear and a Rolex watch. Then, just as the 1,000 City types were about to tuck into their desserts, up popped the man from UBS, the Swiss investment bank, who cried: "UBS will make

a donation of £5,000." The stunned silence did not last for long. The macho competitive instincts of the City had been stirred. The man from Morgan Stanley, a US rival bank, then upped the ante: "We'll donate £10,000 - if UBS

matches our donation." The dinner guests, now seized by the mob

Most To Charity: "...we'll go to £15,000 if



Red star: Chris Evans at Riverside studios in London yesterday to prepare for TFI Friday, the programme at the centre of his Radio One dispute Photograph: Tom Pilston



The BBC's advertisement in Piccadilly Circus yesterday for a successor to Evans



Please release me, says Evans as BBC row goes up in lights

The BBC decided to be as full frontally aggressive as their errant hroadcaster Chris Evans yesterday when the corporation set a new precedent by ad-

vertising for a replacement for Evans on a neon sign in Piccadilly Circus.

A management meeting at Radio One yesterday, attended by the station's controller Matthew Bannister, decided to take the initiative and £2,000 was paid for the prime site.

The sign flashed the words: "Wanted. Radio One breakfast DJ. Must work five-day week. Ginger hair an advantage. Ap-

ply 97-99 FM Radio One." A Radio One spokeswoman denied last night that the joke sign was a waste of licence-payers' money, saying that the corporation had managed to secure a particularly advantageous rate.

Evans gave in his notice on Thursday after being refused permission to reduce his working week to four days and take Fridays off. The ginger-haired presen-ter also hosts the Channel 4 programme

TFI Friday on Friday evenings.
Yesterday Evans returned to the offensive on his Radio One breakfast show. He admitted the dispute had left him feeling sad but he refused to withdraw his resignation, even though fellow DJ

Simon Mayo urged him to stay on.
He told listeners: "I'm a little forlorn," during the 9am bandover to Mayo. But

Troubled DJ goes on the offensive on breakfast show after resignation

his admission came after he provocatively chose to play songs including "Please Re-lease Me. Let Me Go" and another which featured the lyrics: "Give me something before I splutter out".

In a bizarre handover, Mayo told him: "Change your mind." Evans said: "What do you mean?" - to which Mayo replied: "Change your mind." Evans then said:
"I can't because I can't have Fridays off."
Mayo told him: "Well convert to Is-

lam. Friday is a boly day. You can convert to Islam and say 'Look, it's a religious point, now you have to give me Fridays off'. Why don't you do Sundays to Thursdays?"

Evans replied: "No, it's still six days a week"

Then Mayo said: "I've just remem-

hered - Matthew said don't talk about a day for his outspoken brand of broadit on the handover."

Evans had also used his programme to appeal for another job. This appeared to have paid dividends as later in the day the commercial station Talk Radio revealed that it was going to offer Evans

£1m to work for them. A spokesman said: "A request has been sent to his agent and we hope ne-

gotiations are going to start soon. Everything is negotiable. Chris would find the perfect format with us. He is a brilliant talker and would he great for the sta-

BBC executives will now have to consider whether it is worth keeping Evans on until the end of his contract on 27 March with the risk that he will use his remaining shows to make comments

about the corporation. The station's spokeswoman said last night: "We're not unhappy about what he said on his breakfast show. Chris is a spontaneous broadcaster but we will look at each incident todividually and if we feel there is one we need to talk to

him about then we will do so." Evans, who earns more than £7,000 casting, told listeners: "In the middle of last summer I asked for Fridays off because we have got to do the TV show.

... I went to them last summer because I didn't know if the TV show was going to be a success or not.

"Getting up to do the show is not a

day on Friday, do my TV show and get into work at 11 o clock full of energy for 6.15, work till about 8 and that's it. "So I said 'Please can I have Fridays

off, let someone else do the show. In America it is common practice for a DJ to do Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. That's all I wanted.

"In November I want back and asked for the same deal. I said: 'Come on it's not working out, it's too long a week and I don't have to do it. Please'. I said. "They said we'll give you more weeks off next year. OK, so I now got 12 weeks

Evans then explained why he went

back again to ask for Fridays off. He said: "This Christmas I've had a great time. We did one TV show without having to get up at 5am each morning. I asked again and the answer is still

I love to work on the radio, I absolutely adore it. It's my favourite thing in the whole world, although I admit we get paid an absolute fortune.

"We wanted to be here from Monday to Thursday hut apparently that's not good enough. That's the whole thing, that's absolutely true. We are being forced out, that's it. "If somebody else wants to offer us a job Monday to Thursbig deal, I'm not saying it's hard work, but what I wanted to do was have a nice

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Jonathan King calls for boycott of Brit awards

Arts News Editor

A boycott of the premier rock music awards, the Brits, has been called by one of the leadducer and presenter of the

awards ceremony. Mr King claims last week's nominations show the big multinational record labels have elbowed out artists on smaller

independent labels. In a round robin to key figures in the music industry he urges them: "Spoil your ballot papers. Tear them up. As an industry we should not only be fair, but be seen to be fair."

Last week saw Brit nomina-ons for stars tocluding the pice Girls and Oasis. The that the big boys have fixed it yet again."

Mr King's company used to tions for stars tochiding the Spice Girls and Oasis. The

do not have contracts with the hig record companies. "For example, a star like Peter Andre is not nominated as best male despite two number one hits... Why not? Because Mushroom his independent record label]

is not a major of course. He added: "Any shrewd observer can spot the glaring omissions. If any missing names just happen to be on smaller. indic labels, the implication is

awards ceremony takes place produce the Brit awards ceremony until four years ago, but In his memo Mr King says he said yesterday: "We resigned iog music celebrities. Jonathan other highly successful names as producers because we felt it who is also a former pro- are not on the list because they was impossible for nur fair, objective attitude towards the event to continue.

The Brits are organised by the British Phonographic Associa-tion (BPA). Lisa Anderson of the BPA is the executive producer of the award. She said yesterday: "We changed the voting system because it seemed to me that it did some years ago look like a hit of a carve up.

"Now the record companies only get a quarter of the votes."



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Sir James Goldsmith: New newspaper accuses Sir Edward Heath over EU

Goldsmith vHeath in battle of the old devils

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

A political battle of titanic proportions broke out yesterday as the hillionaire financier Sir James Goldsmith squared up to Sir Edward Heath over Europe.

The former Prime Minister and the business mogul, who have more than 80 years' involvement in politics between them, accused each other of lying about what Sir Edward did or did not know in 1960 about the future of the community. .

Neither, however, seemed likely to press their allegations in a court of law. "I'm not likely to take legal action against a multihillionaire who is trying to buy the country's vote with £20m," Sir Edward said of his former Conscrutive Party colleague,

The row started when Sir James launched News, his Referendum Party's new national newspaper, with a story about how the Heath government had "lied through their teeth" to the British public on the consequences of joining the Common Market. A letter sent to Sir Edward in 1960 by the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Kilmuir, talked of "serious surrenders of sovereignty" and added that his objections "ought to be brought out into the open", according to the paper.
But, it added, Sir Edward told the vot-

ers that "there is no question of any ero-

sion of essential national sovereignty". Sir Edward was having none of it. He had been taken out of context, he complained, and Sir James was "cheating".

When he had said there would be no erosion of national sovereignty, he had added: What is proposed is a sharing and an en-

larging of individual national sovereignties in the general interest," he said.

A copy of the letter revealed that that too, had been selectively quoted. While it did mention sovereignty and said that the there would be objections on those grounds to joining the Common Market, it added rider which was not mentioned by Sir James' newspaper.

Although such considerations should be given due weight because of their po-litical implications. I do not for one mo-ment wish to convey the impression that they

must necessarily tip the scale," he said.
Sir James was merely seeking publicity.
Sir Edward suggested, and a high-profile libel case would simply create it. But although he brushed aside suggestions that he might go to court, he said he would continue to make his position clear. He said that what the EC nations were doing was not surrendering sovereignty, but pooling it. Britain had gained influence over other countries as well as winning trade as a re-



Sir Edward Heath: Unlikely to take legal action against 'multi-billionaire'

Gallup discovers new way of making a point

Political Correspondent

Gallup's switch to random telephone interviewing in its opinion poll yesterday means all the polling companies have now changed their methods since their failure to gauge voters' intentions at the last election.

The main pollsters are now divided between new-style random polls and adjusted, oldstyle polls. However, the results are very similar. Gallup's 18point lead for Labour means that all reputable companies now put Labour between 18 and 21 percentage points ahead.

Gallup was the last to change, and its findings increasingly stood out like a sore thumb; last month it put the Labour Party 37 points ahead.

Gallup was the first company to carry out opinion polls in Britain, just before the war, and it made its name heralding Winston Churchill's *unthinkable" defeat in 1945.

Until late last year it looked as if Gallup would do this year's election much as everyone did 1992, while the other companies

would all try new methods. But the weight of evidence against the way it was done last time was overwhelming and Gallup's nerve finally cracked, On election day, 9 April

1992, the main pollsters all put the parties almost neck and neck. Labour was an average 0.8 points ahead. Only Gallup put the Conservatives ahead and only by half a percentage point. In the actual vote the Tories won by 7.6 points. This time there will be two

types of poll. NOP and MORI are quota polis while ICM - and now Gallup - are random. Quota polls use the old method of interviewing people in the street or at home. Interviewers have to fill quotas according to sex, age and class. Since the last election the quotas have been changed, as it turned out they were too working-class.

Random polls are new in this country and are carried out over the telephone, using computers to dial numbers at random. They are, in theory, a better way of getting a representative sample. The problem is with people who don't have

phones or who don't like tak-

ing part in telephone surveys.

The companies also have different ways of accounting for the "shy Tories" factor. It is accepted that Tories are less likely to take part in opinion polls and less likely to declare how they intend to vote. ICM, which works for Tory Central Office and the Guardian, makes the most drastic adjustment for this, which until now produced the lowest Labour leads.

But the adjustments all seem to produce roughly the same outcome; the most recent polls from each of the four main companies were within a few percentage points of each other. It looks as though they will all be right or wrong together - again.

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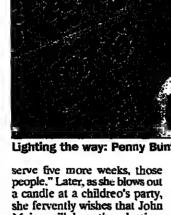
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Can this woman win the election for Labour?

Marianne Macdonald Media Correspondent

Labour's secret weapon, the actress Penny Bunton, was "reeling" from the spotlight which turned on her vesterday after starting in an election broadcast aimed at middle-aged women.

ing to cope with poor schools, NHS waiting lists and rising crime and increasingly fed up with the policies of the Tories. She tells her complacent husband Paul, who is reading a Daily Mail-style newspaper with the headlioe 'Major: I Want Five



Major will lose the election. "Next time the Tories would

stop at nothing. Enough is

Bunton, 36, is now tipped to

be the star of election year in

eoough," says a voiceover.

tained by Scott Woods, the leftwing actor whose eyes were superimposed on to Tony Blair last year for the Tory "Devil eyes" advertisement. She also follows in the footsteps of the family who became embroiled in the "War of Jennifer's Ear" after their daughter's 11-month

featured in a Labour Party hroadcast in 1992. The six-yearold girl's parents later turned out to have differing political views

and subsequently split up. Despite such controversies Labour apparently took few precautions over the actress's political bias, but have struck

lucky in their choice of a firm Labour voter for the party's own version of the "Oxo mum".

They doo't ask if you are a Labour voter wheo you audition for party political broadcasts]. Bunton revealed yesterday. "But they do ask if you have beeo a paid-up member of a political party, which I wasn't."

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ROUL BE

The actress who played Dr Jessica Hardman in Medics and stars in the BBC2 comedy Grown Ups as Mel, a disillusioned social worker, said she had once voted Tory because she didn't know any bener.

"I was 18 and I was confronted with the slip and Margaret Thatcher's name was oo this piece of paper and I thought. Let's have a woman prime minister. I was very naive. I found myself with the vote and I didn't know a damn cerned about the elderly." thing about the political parties. They should teach political ed-

ucatioo in school." The public-school educated actress, who lives in south-west London. was brought up in the it. The divide between the Cambridge and read English at the cost is getting

One listens to the radio and gets terrified, hearing about the terrible divide between schools and the people who can afford to give their children a good education and the people who can't." she said.

"I can't talk about politics but I do have a visceral belief in the Labour Party from a humanitarian standpoint. They are more for an equal world than anyone else, and more con-

She added that she found the situation with the health serrice just so depressing". "I can't help having a sneaking feeling the Tories do want to dismantle it. The divide between the



She plays the character of More Years': "They don't de-

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Oxford. She is single and shares bigger and higger. GPs pledge to fight for budget. powers

Chief Political Correspondent

GP fundholding was thrown behalf of NHS patients trop into the centre of the election battle last night after doctors said they would be campaigning to stop Labour abolishing their right to run hudgets for their own practices.

Dr Rhidian Morris, chairman of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, said the organisation would be writing to all candidates in the forthcoming election to seek support

for fundholding. Dr Morris stressed that the organisation would oot be campaigning in support of the Tory party or the Liberal Democrats, who support fundbolding. But he made it clear that the association would be fighting any attempt by a Labour government to carry out the threat to replace

fundholding with joint commissioning of services by GPs. He said: "We understand what the Labour Party wants. It wants equity but we want equity too. We doo't want people using commercial muscle to get preferential treatment. 1 don't allow that in my health authority area. We have a lot of

sympathy with that view. But we don't think joint commissioning is very work-able," said Dr Morris. "We are apolitical. We are oot going to say vote Conservative or Liberal Democrat because they support us. But we will be looking to raise public awareoess of the hencfits of fundholding.

The NAFP council agreed to fight Labour's plan to introduce

would involve family doctors in an area agreeing terms together for the purchase of care on

NHS trust hospitals. The NAFP executive will be meeting next week to decide how to carry out the campaign. but Dr Morris said they would be writing to all candidates in the election putting their views forward. They have no plans to

run their own candidates. The NAFP statement said it would be "seeking the support of those with influence in the NHS and if fundholding is threatened after the election, we will continue to campaign to ensure that fundholding survives any parliamentary at-

tempt to abolish it". Their stand was welcomed by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, who attacked Lahour's alternative plans as "vague". Mr Dorrell said: "I am pleased though not surprised that the NAFP has agreed unanimously to launch ... a campaign to make clear the benefits of fundholding."

Fundholders had always made it clear that a practicebased hudget was their hottom line because it enabled them to meet patients' oeeds, Mr Dorrell added.

Labour last night shrugged off the campaign, insisting the NAFP was a "small but vocal minority". A party spokesman said: "Our plans for GP commissioning have met with widespread approval across the country from fundholders and non-fundholders. We look forward to a continuing dialogue joint commissioning, which with the NAFP on our plans."



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s pledge fight budget. owers

or waste of cash?



Westminster Correspondent The future of the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich looked almost assured last night as negotiations over an agreed statement from the Government and Opposition reached a successful conclusion. However the agreement still has another hurdle to cross because the Millennium Commission, which is funding the £580m exhibition, is worried that Labour could still pull the

Christian Wolmar

plug on it, if elected. Sources oo both sides of the table said that an agreement which would allow huilding work to commence and which would also ensure that Labour could review progress if elected was likely to he presented to Parliament early next week.

The intervention of the Labour leader, Tony Blair, into the negotiations proved crucial as he was determined to ensure that Labour was not blamed for the collapse of the exhibitioo. While the Labour spokesman for national heritage, Jack Cunningham, had wavered because of opposition from many northern Labour MPs, Mr Blair

Ian Dowell, Editor, Birmingham Evening Mail:
We knew the bid from the

completed in time, contami-

the site. In Birmingham, the

award to Greenwich has left a

Shopping Centre, Inverness:

I'm not in favour of a big

Election.

very had taste that may well cost ridiculous. the Government the General

hition's future and had a number of telephone conversations with the deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine, following their meeting on Thursday.

Deal secures

Millennium

show's future

However, moves towards a consensus were not helped when Mr Major launched an attack on Labour's attitude to the Millennium Exhibition on BBC local radio: "The Labour party have had their representative on the discussions and debate over this project from the outset. They can't claim not to have known what the situation was. It's very surprising at the last moment that they have failed to understand what is go ing on and created this difficulty

However, Michael Heseltine, who is desperate to see the project brought to fruition was in a more emollient mood, refusing to be drawn into criticism of Labour, He said on Radio 4's World at On: "I'm not prepared to get into any sort of public controversy over this matter at a

time when we are negotiating."

He dismissed as inconceivable the idea that it would end up with a Lahour government scrapping the project, leaving the companies which had invested in the project with the bill

I believe the milleonium

should he as tacky as possible.

at the top will be able to see the

it will be awful and ghastly. How-

Great celebration

Greenwich project was flawed: I very much want to have the

the Jubilee tube line had to be Ferris wheel, just so people

oated land had to be cleared state of Londoo. I want a huge

and there was oo easy access to dome in Greenwich because

fortable about how Labour had ended up with such a prominent role in the exhibitioo's future. Labour had insisted on three

points: a limit to the overall budget; a limit to the contingencies; and the right to review the scheme once in government. Millennium Central, the exhibition organisers, said that it was essential for a quick con-

der to place orders for steel and to sign the £20m contract for the transfer of the land from British Gas to English Partnerships, a government quange



Millennium Fund, page 21 Clean break; A worker on the Millennium site masked against the threat of chemicals being cleaned from the area

Photograph: Brian Hams

The Sale of Excellence

Exhibition crisis: Consensus reached over Greenwich showcase, but investors fear a Labour government could still scrap project

3050

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funding was already in place and we have the facilities here almost is going to he hrought ready. The decision to give the award to Granmidh has left. will fund the millennium is

Victor Rose, Landlord, Miners Arms Pub in Bristol: I think that the dome they're Erik Milne, manager, Eastgate going to put up is a waste of I just haven't heen following money. I think they should put the story at all, probably because the money towards different I'm north of the border it's just ways of celebrating the milleogeographically far too remote. nium, and perhaps invest Perhaps if they spread the milin something smaller instead. I don't know how politically lenium projects around the damaging this will be for the country a bit more then maybe

I would pay more attention, but Government. Compiled by Sam Coates



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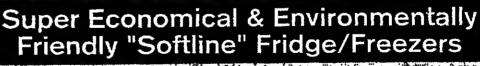
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25 years on, ghosts return to challenge the official truths about Bloody Sunday

Call for fresh inquiry into slaughter on the streets of Londonderry



DAVID McKITTRICK

Relatives of 13 unarmed civilians shot dead by troops on "Bloody Sunday" have called for a new inquiry after fresh evidence emerged suggesting that soldiers opened fire from Lon-donderry city walls, high above the

It had always been claimed the dead were hit by fire from ground level when paratroopers opened up on an anti-internment civil rights march in the city 25 years ago.

Now it appears that soldiers on duty on the walls overlooking the Bogside said they fired as well.

They claim they were fired on, and

a local radio ham has produced a recording of Army transmissions, while a Londonderry doctor who attended some of the post-mortem examinations says three of the victims were killed by bullets which appeared to have been fired downwards at a 45-degree angle. Dr Raymond Maclean who was on the march was never called to give evidence at a public tribunal.

A new book also casts doubt on the independence of the official inquiry into the killings on 30 January 1972, which far from fading into the realms of history continue to have a

huge significance for republicans.

The question of how the authorities handle killings by members of the security forces, in this and many other cases, remains a live issue and is seen as one of the most controversial in the field of justice.
Only this week there were critic

cisms of allegedly preferential treat-



ment of a soldier, Lee Clegg of the Parachute Regiment, whose murder conviction was, unusually, referred back to the courts for review.

The Bloody Sunday killings were formally investigated by the then Lord Chief Justice, the late Lord

His finding that the firing of some paratroopers had bordered on the reckless" brought a deluge of criti-

cism and allegations that it was a "whitewash" rather than an honest attempt to find out how 14 people came to be shot dead by British

soldiers. The Government originally claimed that all or most of the accused were gunmen or nail-bombers. But Lord Widgery recorded that no one except soldiers gave him evi-dence of seeing firearms or bombs:

that none of the many photographs of the events showed guns or bombs; that no guns or bombs were recovered; and that no soldiers were injured by guns or bombs.

He concluded, however, that while none of the deceased was proved to have a gan or bomh when shot, there was a strong suspicion that some had earlier fired guns or handled bombs A new book, Eyewitness Bloody

Sunday by Don Mullan, cites an official Home Office document, newreleased by the Public Record Office, which lends support to the contention that Lord Widgery approached his findings with a view of blackening the dead and defending the soldiers actions.

The book also says that three of. the dead were shot from the city walls will conclude that he cannot find with certainty that any one of 13 was a

Young, 17, and William Nash, 19.

The document records a meeting between Lord Widgery and a Home Office representative - presumably a minister or senior official - as the Lord Chief Justice was finalising his report. A hand-written note on the document records: "LCI will pile up the case against the deceased ... hut will conclude that he cannot find with

Day of shame: The Bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly, negotiating a way past soldiers as friends and relatives help to carry away one of the victims of the shootings on 30 January, Photograph: Pacemake

gunman." (One of the 14 died later from his wounds). The rest of the memorandum

shows that the smallest details were together examined by Lord Widgery and the Government.

For example, the Home Office recorded its opinions about the performance of army officers -Brigadier MacLennan loyally covered up for his subordinates, but Colonel Wilford's activities surely

Colonel Wiltord's activities surely need some explaining."

The former Catholic Bishop of Derry, Dr Edward Daly, said of the Widgery report: "I was aghast by it, by the fact that the British Lord Chief Justice would not acknowledge the innocence of the victims and made a rather feehle attempt at exonerating those who actually pulled the trigger.

the trigger.

But even though Widgery did engage in a whitewash, the evidence of the Paras was taken apart by our lawyers, and I think it was shown up

as the fabrication that it was." Tony Doherty, whose father was one of the dead, said; "It is clear that the Widgery team was stacked in favour of the Army's version.

There was a spoken or unspoken conspiracy hatched in the upper echelons between Whitehall mandarins and the Widgery tribunal.

"What is needed and what we have been demanding for a number of years is a truly independent inquiry by international solipitors, recognised by the British and Irish governments.

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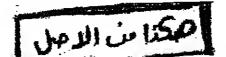
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shame: The Bishop of r Edward Daly, ting a way past soldiers ds and relatives help to way one of the victims shootings on 30 January, Photograph: Pacemaker

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Ban on feeding the pigeons puts tourists in a flap

David Garfinkel

Trafalgar Square was reminiscent of a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds yesterday, as bundreds of speckled pigeons gathered to protest against an attempt by Westminster City Council to have them removed.

Councillors are to ask the Department of National Heritage in withdraw the inf-ficial food-vendor's licence, in a bid to reduce the size of the flock.

For Bernard Rayner, whn owns the business, and plans to fight the move, that could mean Lord Nelson will lose some very dear friends. "I have been working here all my life. My family has been run-ning this stand since 1952, and now they are trying to destroy my livelihood," he said. "Everyone loves the birds, especially

the kids. People of all nationalities flock to the square marvel at and feed the feathered gathering, and for many tourists it is as much an attraction as Buckingham

US visitors David and Carol Whisman said that when they thought of England, they remembered Mary Poppins feeding the pigeons. It is like an event in itself coming here, and it would be very dis-appointing if they got rid of all the birds," said Mr Whisman, 38. "There is only one place you can really come to feed them - and that's here.'

But entertainment value is not the only thing the pigeons bring to the area. Every year, over a ton of droppings have to be removed from Nelson's Column alone, and according to the council, it damages

surrounding buildings.

A spokeswoman for the Department of National Heritage said there would be nn immediate action as Mr Bernard still had two years left nn his licence.
"We will consider what the council

have to say. But Trafalgar Square is a recognised landmark and pigeous are part of the attraction," she said.

The pigeons, however, whn declined to comment, seemed unruffled by all the



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Trees will be used to fire power station

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

The construction of Britain's first wood burning power station will start this summer, after the project won planning permis-

The eight megawatt power station at Eggborough, North Yorkshire, will generate enough power for 18,000 homes. The £20m scheme will be fuelled partly from commercial firests at a temperature of 800C with branches and trunks produced when young woodlands are

Eventually the bulk of its fuel wood will come from fast growing willow tree plantations grown on nearby farmland. To date 34 hectares have been planted, and a further 125 will be planted this spring. The willows will be fertilised with the sludge from

sewage works, and wood ash. Government scientists have calculated that if a quarter of Britain's total area of farmland was given over to such "energy woodlands this would provide sufficient fuel to continuously generate nearly two-thirds nf current electricity demand.

It is regarded as an environment-friendly form of electricity generation because unlike coal, oil and gas burning power stations, those hurning wood do not increase the amount of global-warming carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere.

wood does give nff carbon dioxide. But an equal quantity of the

gas is absorbed by the growing trees which provide fresh wood for the power station.

The willow shoots will be harvested by cutting them off at ground level. They quickly grow new shoots which reach a height of three metres or more before the cutting machine comes

round again, three years later. The harvested shoots will be cut into chips and then "cooked" in the power station n the region, using the small a limited supply of nxygen. This "gasification" process gives off large amounts of heat, and hydrogen, methane, carbon monoxide and dioxide gases.

The mixture of gases is cleaned by chemical scrubbers and filters hen used as fuel for a gas turbine engine which powers an electricity generator.

The hot exhaust gases from the turbine then flow through a boiler, which raises steam for another turbine-generator. When the exhaust gases finally emerge they are still hot enough for one more task - drying the

incoming wood chips.

Gasifying the wood reduces air pollution and allows much more of the obomical energy to

be converted into electricity. Three separate projects for wood burning power stations bave been approved under a government scheme which boosts electricity generated from renewable energy sources. Eggbornugh, backed by an in-Like fossil fuels, burning ternational consortium led by a subsidiary of Ynrkshire Water.



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international

Palestinians await fruits of Hebron deal

Euphoria among the Palestinians in the Old City of Hebron at the withdrawal of Israeli troops from 80 per cent of their city did not last long. At dawn the Palestinian flag was raised over the old Israeli military headquarters, but within hours a scuffle between an Israeli settler and a Palestinian led the Israeli army to declare a curfew in the fifth

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of Hehron it still controls. A patrol of paramilitary border police marched down the main road shouting at Paleshouses. A banana seller was too slow and a soldier kicked over his scales. "Things will go badly with us," said Jamal Maraga. selling embroidered dresses from his shop in the kasbah. People here are frightened."

It was all in sharp contrast to the self-congratulatory tone among Israeli, Palestinian and American officials who had agreed the Hebron protocol last Wednesday, In Tel Aviv Martyn Indyk, the American amhassador, was confidently telling Israeli journalists that we are now taking the first step towards the huilding of trust. Concerning Hebron the agree-ment is just and halanced. It gives Jews security and allows Arabs to return to normal life".

The day had begun with a young Palestinian shinning up the antenna on top of the Israeli military headquarters from which Israel had ruled Hehron since 1967. Thousands of Palestinians who had gathered to watch the transfer of power had gone home. Only about 100 remained at 6am to watch Lt Col Gadi, the commander of the Israeli brigade in Hebron, hand over to a Palestinian officer.

Unlike the Israeli withdrawal from Nablus in 1995 there was no hurning of Israeli flags. Within hours 400 Palestinian police were deploying, emphasising their presence by vigorously directing the sparse traffic. More effectively some 1,000 members of the Preventive Security Service, the largest of the nine Palestinian intelligence services, led by Jibril Rajoub. were to he seen in every street. Entering the Israeli headquar-

Normality is still some way off for Arabs under Israeli control, reports **Patrick Cockburn**

ters, Mr Rajoub, a former prisoner, said: "I was detained here five times. This is the first time I enter as a free man.

The arrival of Palestinian security men is considered a mixed hlessing. As Palestinians streamed through Mamluk gateway into the al-Ibrahimi mosque a sermon was being broadcast saying: "We don't want the Palestinian Authority to use arbitrary measures like the Israelis did." Io his office Rafiq al-Natsche, a member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, said: "We are very worried by any monopoly of power by the intelligence ser-

Mr Natsche's main complaint

was oot about the protocol on

Hebron, but the agreement to partition the city reached in 1995. "It was a big mistake hy our leaders," he said. Himself a member of Patah and former PLO ambassador to Saudi Arahia Mr Natsche added that when the Palestinian Council met to discuss the latest accord on Hehron "there were only a few copies of the agreement available - and none were in Arabic". He thought the new Palestinian police would be acceptable io Hebron "but if the settlers kill some Palestinians then the people will expect the police to support them".

By yesterday morning friction was already huilding up. Noam Arnon, leader of the 400 settlers, was standing on the edge of the road, saying the Hebron accord marked "the surrender of the free world to terrorism. The Oslo process brings blood. To sign an agreement with the PLO is like signing with Saddam

For the 20,000 Palestinians in Hehron still under Israeli control the gains of the settlers may he more evident than their losses. When a scuffle started police and soldiers pushed for-

The crowd of onlookers hurled fruit and vegetables. The army then announced a curfew.

The settlers also seemed anxious to provoke an incident. Shani Horovitz, 37, a settler activist from Brooklyn, stopped her car and said Palestinians had threatened her. She shouted: "I want my army to protect me." She then stood in the road blocking vehicles while soldiers tried to persuade her to move. Around her the border police eoforced the curfew against Palestinians but oot against the settlers. In the city centre, emp-ty apart from army patrols, there was little sign of Mr Indyk's promised return to normal life for the Palestinians.



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Confrontation: A Palestinian gesturing with his prayer beads during an argument with an Israeli soldier in Hehron yesterday Photograph: Reuters

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Tom apart: A rabbi in Hebron helping a Jewish settler rend his clothes in mourning at the loss of the cityPhotograph: Reuters

A new Berlin on the West Bank

Patrick Cockburn

In future Hehron will be divided as Beirut and Berlin were in The 100,000 Palestinians on

the western side of the city. called H1, come under the control of the Palestinian Authority. The eastern fifth of Hebroo, where some 50 Jewish families live along with 20,000 Palestinians, remains under Israeli control and will be known as H2.

In theory, civilians will be able to pass between the two sides of the city hut already yesterday there were long queues of Palestinian cars trying to gel to the al-Ibrahimi mosque, which remains under Israeli control. There will be 400 armed Palestinian police.

The high ground overlooking Jewish houses will be demilitarised and patrolled by joint patrols only.

The agreement, which effectively partitions Hebron, was signed by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, with the Labour government in 1995. The protocol signed last week makes surprisingly few changes. Buffer zones will be established

between the two sides. Much negotiating time was spent on the future of Shuhada street, the maio road, which has been closed to Palestinians since 1994, when Baruch Goldstein massacred 29 Palestinian worshippers in the Ibrahimi mosque. This is to be rebuilt and redesigned by the US to minimise friction between Israeli

settlers and Palestinians. USAID even promises to plant flowers and small shrubs. The road will be reopened in four months.

Security of settlers is provided for in great detail. Palestinian police will only carry short-range sub-machine-guns. No high huildings can be built next to Jewish enclaves. In the Palestinian area the Imara, or security headquarters, has already been turned over to Palestinian security. Shops in the vegetable market - hut not stalls - will he reopened.

But, given the proximity between settlers and Palestinians, an essential element of security for the Jews will he the co-operation of the 1,000 Palestinian plainclothes security personnel in Hehron.



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international

Self-respecting Serbs learn to laugh again

Steve Crawshaw Beigrade

The Sava Centre in Belgrade is nut, it must be said, an inspiring building. The 1970s conference-cum-concert hall stands in a wasteland in the high-rise district of Novi Beograd. With its glassed-over entrance hall, it looks like a giant conservatory crossed with a hospital block.

Not, at first glance, an obvious place to witness a miracle. None the less, the mood at the charmless Sava Centre this week has been just as extraordinary, in some ways, as the dramatic events on the streets. Djordje Balasevic is a

fortysomething singer with receding hair and an amiable air of scruff. A very European mixture of chansonnier and raconteur - try mixing Georges Brassens and Billy Connolly and see what you get. In Serbia, he has long been enormously popular. His songs are lyrical, peppered with irony – sex, drink, pain. He has been singing for 20 years, and his following includes both the middle-aged and the young. In the past, he

has been part of the staple diet of Belgrade television.

But, as this week's concert made clear, no longer. More changes will have to take place in Serbia before Balasevic again becomes the television bosses' favourite. Balasevic delivered non-stop contempt for the government of Slobodan Milosevic its crassness, warmongering. hypocrisy, riot police, and its dead-end lack of policy. The 4,000-strong audience adored it. Old and young, they hlew whistles, cheered, cried, and sat bewitched. And, above all, they

And that was the real miracle: the happiness in the hall. This was an evening of Serbian innocence. In recent years, Serbia has drowned in its own myths, always blaming others for its misfortunes. But that is no longer the only Serbia.

Balasevic chattered on, with

tales of Milosevic, of politics, and of Balasevic's travels most recently, to Britain. He described applying for the visa, the questions at Heathrow, and how he got into small-talk when he finally arrived. A new ac-



Front line: A young boy stands between riot police at a demonstartion in Belgrade yesterday organised by the opposition Zajedno movement

quaintance asked where he was mouth," he told the packed hall from. "Xcdvarqzia," came Balasevic's mumhled reply. Asked again, he repeated: "Xedqziavia" ... I somehow found that I had a big chocolate in my

on Wednesday night. Then, he was asked a third time: "Sorry, where did you say?" "Yugoslavia! he finally declared. with a confident roar. There was

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hall - recognition of the possibility that Serbs may finally get past their shame, and regain the identity which Slobodan Milosevic has made it so difficult for

laughter and recognition in the a self-respecting Serb to declare. In one of the few explicitly political songs, Balasevic sang of the "bad guys, pessimists, lunatics and psychopaths who destroyed everything". But he

emphasised, too, that this has not been a war which the Serbs

can simply push to one side. The generals and moustachioed majors - they are not guilty," he sang. "They just said: 'Fire', and pulled the triggers. We are guilty, hecause we were silent." The hall erupted For many at the concert, it

was the changes in people's heads which gave most reason for optimism - not the concessions that the authorities appeared to make this week in

26-year-old biologist, was more optimistic than she had ever heen about the prospects for a different Serbia. "Just a few months ago, I was desperate. I said to my husband: Nothing will ever get me on the streets again'. It was too depressing. Nothing ever changed." The atmosphere of Wednesday's concert was a "completely different", she said, from concerts in previous years. Her husband, Bojarc added; "Suddenly, we've got hope. Much has happened. But much more will

recognising opposition election happen, that's what counts. That makes us feel good." Court rebuffs **Milosevic**

Steve Crawshaw

A Serb court yesterday rebuffed the ruling Socialist Party hy reconfirming an opposition victory in elections in the industrial

town of Nis in November. The slap-down provided the latest indication that street protests against the regime have opened up new and potentially lethal splits in the establishment. Until recently, it would have heen unthinkable for a Serb court to rule against the party of Slobodan Milosevic.

An electoral commission this week overturned a previous unnulment of an opposition victory in the capital, Belgrade. The apposition star expects the Socialist Party (the former Communist Party) to appeal against the ruling. Opposition sources argued yesterday that Mr Milosevic is "playing for

Street protests against the refusal to recognise the opposition victories in Belgrade and other cities continued nationwide. The demonstrations, which began after elections two months ago yesterday, are no longer gaining the momentum which

might make an early denouement inevitable. But nor are they fading away.

In the words of one opposi-tion official, the authorities are in complete disarray". Army commanders have expressed unhappiness that force might be used against the demonstrators. There are splits within the Socialist Party, between reformers pressing for change and hardiners who want to batten down the hatches.

The police, too, are no longer necessarily reliable. One regional police chief has suggested that the busing in of policemen to the capital for "demo duty" is counter-profor the regime. "After a week spent in Belgrade, they get contaminated. They talk to the demonstrators, they listen to B92 [opposition] radio. And then they take the contamina-

tion back home." Renewed international support for the opposition came with the announcement that the German Foreign Minister. Klaus Kinkel, has invited Zoran Djindjic, one of the leaders of the opposition coalition, for

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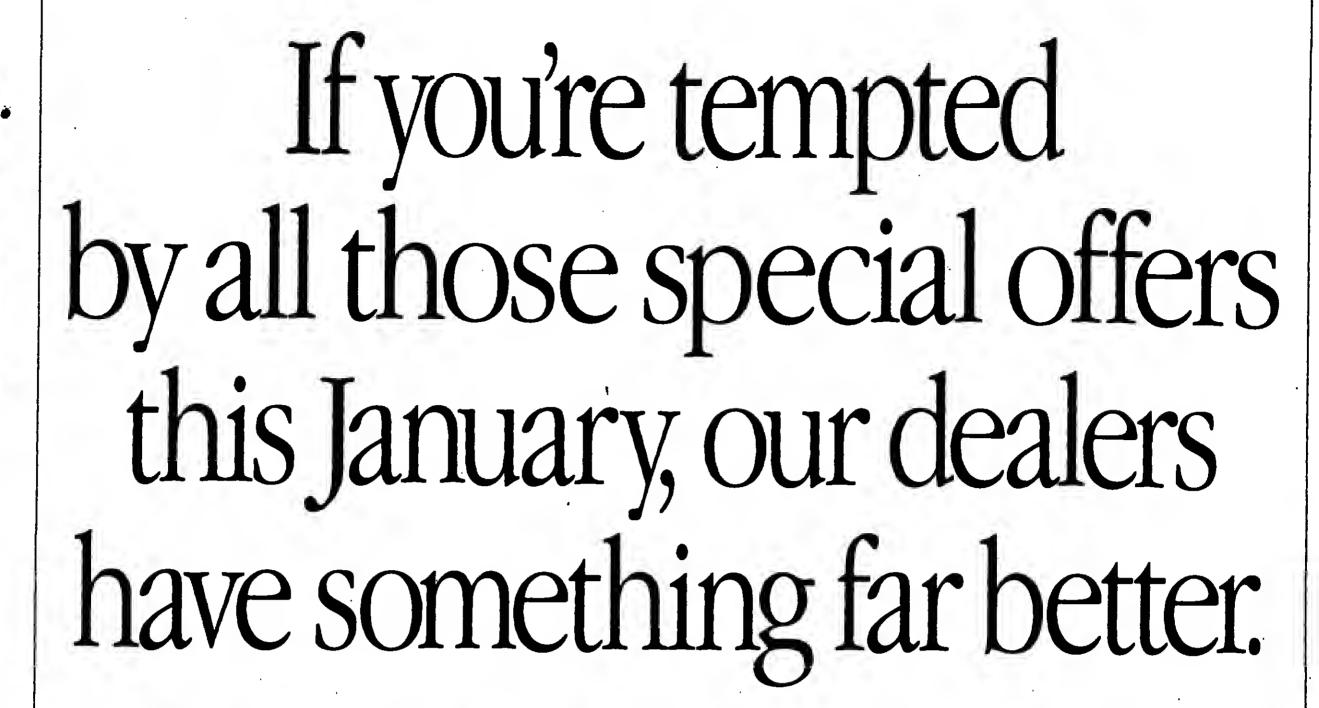
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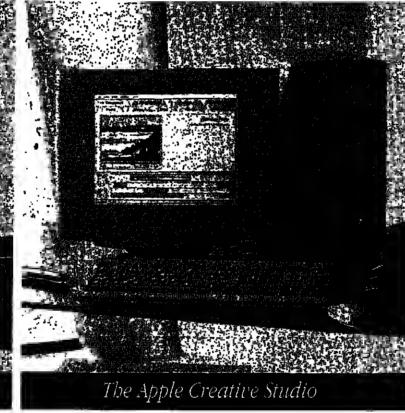
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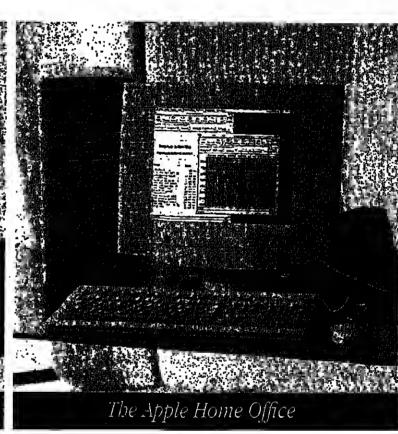


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international

Gingrich clings on after fine of \$100,000

Amid confusion and unrelenting partisan feuding, the ethics controversy surrounding Newt Gingrich moved towards a climax yesterday, as the Speaker agreed to pay a \$100,000-plus fine, and Congress prepared to release an independent counsel's reputedly scathing report

on his ethical transgressions. Three days hefore President Bill Clinton's second inauguration, political Washington was living two simultaneous lives gearing up for the festivities that accompany America's fourvearly equivalent of a coronation, yet transfixed by the drama over the fate of Mr Gingrich.

A month after he admitted hreaching House rules and then, in effect, lying about it to his peers, Mr Gingrich and his Republican supporters were adamant he would stay. But for the first time, a Speaker bas been reprimanded and will pay what is described as a "six-fig-

ure penalty Televised public hearings on Capitol Hill into the report by the committee's independent counsel, James Cole, were to be held vesterday afternoon, before a final vote on Mr Gingrich's punishment not later than Tuesday. Technically, a reprimand was almost the lightest of the possible sanctions. It will not require him to step down and some Republican backbenchers wish to reduce it to a virtually meaningless "reproval."

But it was not clear whether Mr Cole would demand further investigation by the Justice Department into the purportedly improper use of tax-exempt contributions by the Speaker the offence at the heart of the charges against him. If so, his tribulations will not be over.

winners from a week of savage political warfare, by delaying the octentially embarrassing bearings to the last moment, when they will be obscured by the inauguration.

The Democrats dealt their cause a blow by leaking tran-scripts of an illegally eaves-dropped telephone conversation between Mr Gingrich, his lawyers and top Republicans about his predicament. That triggered a separate FBJ investigation of the leak, turning the spotlight to Democratic sins.

Such is the fevered climate in the US Capitol, in wbose shadow President Clinton will take the oath of office for the second time at noon on Monday. At the White House, bowever, all is sweetness and bipartisanship ahead of the big day.

In a moving ceremony, Mr Clinton yesterday awarded the country's highest civilian hon-our, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, to his vanquisbed Republican opponent of last November, Bob Dole, speaking of the huge debt owed by the country to the former Senate Majority leader. Mr Dole re-

sponded with characteristic wit.
"I Robert J Dole...." he began in a mock recitation of the inaugural oath be had hoped to be taking on Monday, before breaking off; "Sorry - wrong speech." After the laughter bad subsided, however, Mr Dole came close to tears as be singled out an old comrade-in-arms in the audience who had belped save him after his wounding in Italy in the Second World War.

The occasion was designed to send a message that Mr Clinton will work constructively with the Republican majority in Congress, whatever the hickering over Mr Gingrich. That strate-gy is paying off. Mr Clinton's personal approval rating, ac-In the sbort-term, the Re- cording to a CNN poil yesterpublicans have emerged as clear day, was a best-ever 62 per cent.



Hogging the limelight: A piglet looks into the photographer's lens at the Green Week Fair in Berlin, the biggest agricultural fair in Europe, putting farming products and livestock on display

Photograph: AP

SA 'dove' implicated in apartheid-era dirty tricks

Johannesburg

From hawk to dove, declared a juhilant press two years ago when General Georg Meiring, leader of the apartheid government's war against the African National Congress, became part of the miracle of South Africa's peaceful transition.

Yesterday, in a previously suppressed report General Meiring - the man who in spite of his past was chosen by President Nelson Mandela to oversee the creation of a national defence force for the new South Africa - was implicated with more than 60 officers and soldiers in apartheid-era dirty tricks, including state-sponsored murder.

The revelation was made by Commission, which also sug-

gested that former president FW de Klerk orchestrated a cover up while still in power in 1992 by refusing to investigate charges against General Meiring and two other generals, Kat Liebenherg and Joffel van der Westhuizen, despite the conclusions of an investigation by General Pierre Steyn.

General Steyn, then a lieunant-general, was appointed by Mr de Klerk to investigate allegations that a shadowy Third Force was destabilising the country through covert violent operations designed to discredit and divide the liberation forces. He probed train violence, assassinations, gun running, drug smuggling and cross-border raids. Instead of investigating the

three generals, as General Steyn specifically recommendthe Truth and Reconciliation ed. Mr de Klerk asked them to take a look at Steyn's list and

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come up with one of their own. Twenty-three men were eventually sent packing. But yester-day's TRC announcement confirmed widespread suspicion that the purging of the old guard has been limited.

Charles Villa-Vicencio, the TRC's head of research, said General Steyn believed that during his investigations far more effort was expended by the armed forces and the police on covering up and identifying leaks than on gathering evidence. Despite explicit instructions, police and armed forces documents were destroyed.

Yesterday, Alex Boraine, the TRC's deputy chairman, said Mr de Klerk's actions at the time were extraordinary. "It seems a strange way to get at the truth," he added. He also said that the TRC now held the report Mr de Klerk had previously

denied existed in written form. Mr Boraine plans to hold talks with Defence Minister Joe Modise and General Meiring, "It will be interesting to hear what Mr de Klerk has to say when be appears before the commission

later this year," be said.

A defence force spokesman said he could not comment on the charges against General Meiring until the force had had time to study the report.

A spokesman for Mr de Klerk said that the commission was making a deliberate attempt to damage de Klerk, who now leads the national party in opposition. He said the TRC's claims were seriously misleading and that Mr de Klerk did not have strong enough evidence to take drastic measures against the highest ranking officers at what was then a delicate stage in the transition process.

significant shorts

Prescott vows to help ease HK handover

John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, winding up a visit to Peking, said: "We want [the transition of Hong Kong to go well, whether it is under a Tory government or a Labour government, and we'll do all we can to see that is achieved." His trip to China was "a matter of updating ourselves" on preparations for the transition. He is due in Hong Kong on Monday, where he hopes to renew his acquaintance with Tung Chee-Hwa, set to be chief executive of Hong Kong when the Union flag is finally lowered on 30 June. Teresa Poole - Peking

Police profile on Cosby's killer

The gunman who killed the son of the entertainer Bill Cosby was at the crime scene momentarily, and investigators are preparing a composite sketch of the attacker. Police say Ennis William Cosby, 27, may have been the victim of a roadside rohbery attempt after he stopped to fix a flat tyre, although nothing apparently was taken. AP - Los Angeles

Zimbabwe atrocity claim

A retired corporal from President Robert Mugabe's notorious North Korean-trained Fifth Brigade will seek compensation for mental trauma which he says be suffered carrying out atrocities in the 1980s. The planned lawsuit by the man, whose identity has not been disclosed, could help uncover details of Mr Mugabe's campaign against an uprising in the Matabeleland region of

Zimbabwe. Thousands of people were believed killed to have been by government forces which were seeking to root out dissenters, though Mugabe has previously prevented information about the campaign from being made public. AP - Harare

Sudan denies losing key town to insurgents

Sudan denied the fall of Maban into rebel hands on the southern front of the Blue Nile region, an area where a Swiss-based relief group said Sudanese troops were bombing and burning to drive out the rebels. Sudanese rebels in Asmara and Cairo said a joint rebel force had captured the town. which they say is a strategic bypass for the White Nile state, Upper Nile and the Blue Nile region. Reuter - Cairo

Taliban claim big advance

Afghanistan's Islamic Taliban militia said they had captured parts of Kapisa province north-west of Kahul and that a Taliban fighter had shot down a warplane of the opposition alliance with a US-made Stinger missile. Reuter - Mir Bacha Kot

US Air Force gets a rocket

A McDonnell Douglas Delta 2 rocket carrying a \$55m (£34m) US Air Force navigational satellite apparently exploded as it blasted off from Cape Canaveral. "I beard the main explosion and after that I heard three, four, more minor explosions and more smoke and more firehalls." said Kurt Ronstrom, who was pbotographing the blast-off.

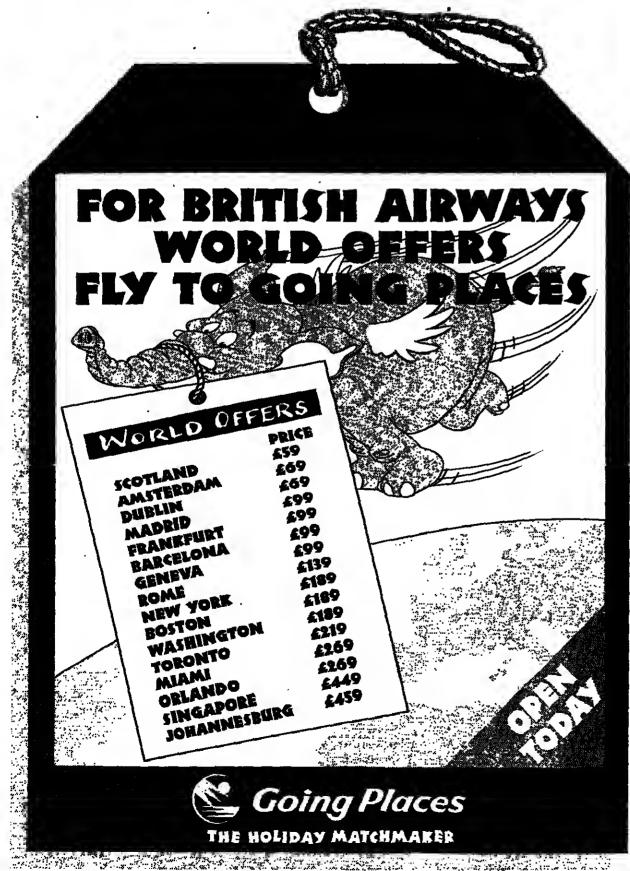
Reuter - Cape Canaveral

Dutch hit by abortion row

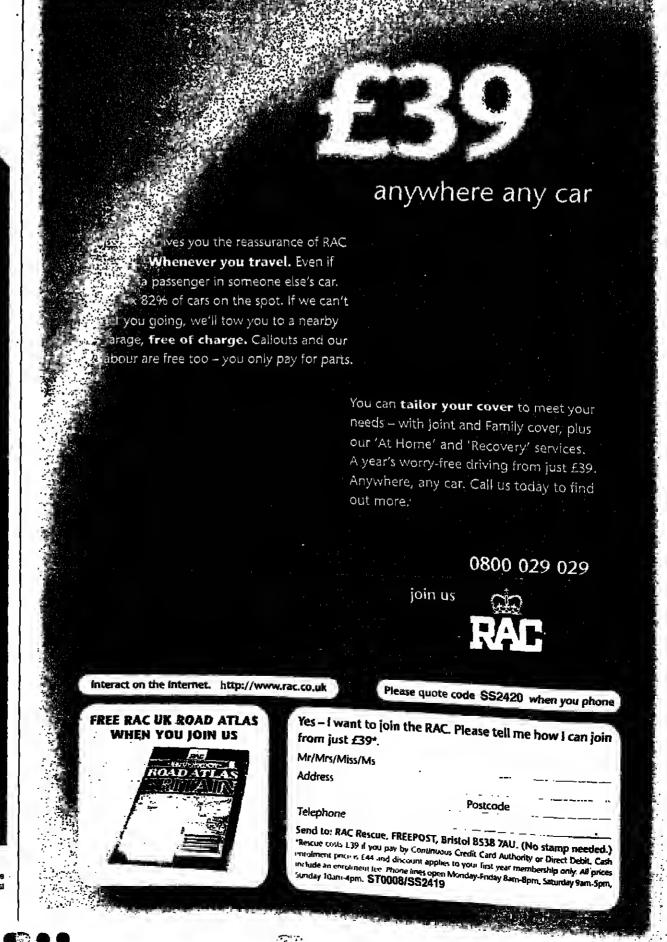
The Health Minister, Els Borst, said she can imagine circumstances under which **Dutch doctors may legally** abort a foetus if it is not the sex the mother wants. Her comment, for broadcast on television, followed a documentary in which a doctor said he would do an abortion for a woman who said she wanted it "because it was raining." AP - The Hague

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international

Kremlin prepares for life after Yeltsin

Russian politicians are already jockeying for the ailing president's job

Phil Reeves Moscow

Like him or loathe him, Boris Yeltsin is an extraordinary survivor. A mixture of ruthless bullying, shrewd tactics and luck has helped him weather a bloody showdown with parliament, heart attacks, a quintuple bypass operation, a slaughterous war in Chechnya, and a reelection campaign which he entered with ratings that looked like the IQ of an earthworm. sweeping through Moscow that his days are drawing to a close.

As he struggles to overcome double pneumonia, even his admirers privately concede that Mr Yeltsin will soon be forced to acknowledge that he is no longer well enough to remain in charge of the largest country on the planet.

More than six months have More than six months have instance, a debate has begun elapsed since he was re-elected about whether the Russian confor his final term; he has been absent for most of that time. Although he may well recover from his present illness, few expect him to complete his full term. He is ill, worn out and, by Russian standards, old - seven years above the average male

The mood is hard to pinpoint with facts, yet it is palpable. When Mr Yeltsin had yet another bout of heart trouble last summer, his entourage was hull-ish, angrily dehunking reports that he could not work more to which they may be put by his successor. Looming ominously ident was beavering away on documents, they insisted.

gloom. The Kremlin's spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhemsky, is going through the paces, reas-

Lebed claims Clinton backing



With doubts surrounding Boris Yeltsin's future, Alexander Lebed (above) believes that he has already acquired evidence of official recognition in Washington a treasured invitation to Monday's swearing-in of Bill Clinton, from none other than the US President him-

His claim caused forrowed brows in the White House, which is denying that the self-styled presidentin-waiting is a guest of the United States. Confusion surrounded Mr Lebed's claim, but he may have been invited by an individual member of Congress.

The US - with a weather eye to the future - has cho-sen its words carefully. Asked what it would do if Mr Lebed attends, Mike McCurry, White House spokesman, said Mr Clinton "will not be embarrassed and would not be offended". He added: "It would strike him as cunous, but he is not in control of the people who are awarded tick-

suring the world that his boss is getting better. But the Kremlin doctors have sounded increasingly wary. What was described 10 days ago as "early signs of pneumonia" is now referred to as double pneumonia triggered by bronchitis, an 'unpredictable" condition that can bring complications later on.

Once-loyal newspapers that kept quiet about Mr Yeltsin's health during his election campaign now sound alarmed. An editorial in Livestia described Yet, after all this, suspicion is him as "clearly seriously ill" and expressed concern about the stability of the country. When the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, declared yesterday that Russia's reforms would continue, he was almost assuming the absence of Mr Yeltsin.

And there are signs that the political establishment is preparing for life after Boris. For stitution, forced into law by Mr Yeltsin in 1993, places too much power in the hands of one man. Consensus is growing in favour of the views of Yegor Stroyev. speaker of parliament's upper house and a staunch Yeltsin supporter, who has called for an amendment giving more power to partiament, arguing that "the constitution is not an icon".

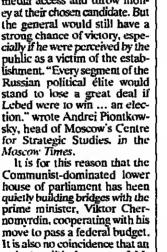
Mr Stroyev's concern is not that his friend, Mr Yeltsin, will abuse his powers. What worries him, and many others, is the use into view is Alexander Lebed, the former paratrooper gener-This time, there is far more al who is the favourite to win an election if one were called soon.

If there is one Russian who appears confident that Mr Yeltsin is about to exit, it is Mr Lebed. In the three months since he was sacked as national security adviser, after securing a peace deal in Chechnya, his appetite for the presidency has grown sharper. When he dis covered Mr Yeltsin was bed-ridden again, he moved his campaign up a gear, calling repeatedly for the president to quit. "I want to become president, and I will," he announced, before

setting off on a trip to Germany. Having lost badly to Mr teltsin, the Communists and nationalists do not want to be humiliated at the hallot box. especially hy someone who could take their grassroots vote. Many in government do not relish a president who threatens to root out official corruption, and take control of foreign trade a source of many fortunes.

Should an election be called the Kremlin would almost certainly try to throttle Mr Lebed's media access and throw mon-ey at their chosen candidate. But the general would still have a strong chance of victory, espe-cially if he were perceived by the public as a victim of the establishment. "Every segment of the Russian political élite would stand to lose a great deal if Lebed were to win ... an election." wrote Andrei Piontkow-sky, head of Moscow's Centre for Strategic Studies, in the

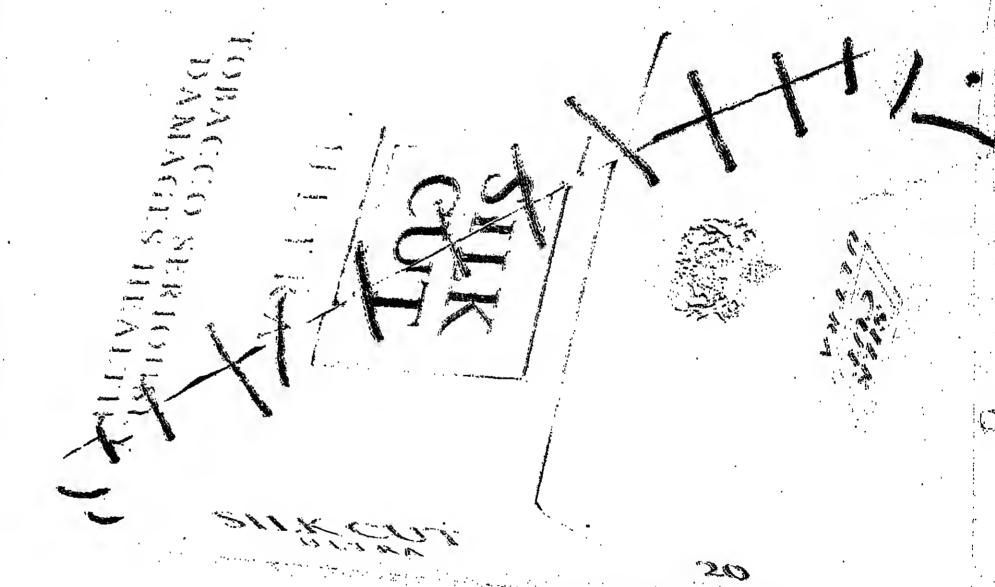
Communist-dominated lower house of parliament has been quietly building bridges with the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, cooperating with his move to pass a federal budget. It is also no coincidence that an ardent political enemy of Mr Yeltsin. Oleg Rumyantsev, has floated the idea of another constitutional amendment - a law allowing prime minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to stand in for the sick president for 18 months (instead of the current three) before calling an election The apparatchiks who run Russia hope that, by then, Mr Lebed will be forgotten.











Foreigners drive into Moscow road trap

Phil Reeves Moscow

The world has always had its responsible motorists (the British) and its lunatics (the Italians). and until new no foreign visitor to Moscow had any doubts

where to place the Russians. One trip amid the dented, smog-spewing, vehicles that clatter round the capital is usually enough to convince newcomers that this is a place where the rules of the road are taken with a pinch of salt, and

sometimes a glass of vodka. among the thousands of foreign diplomats and husiness executives in the city when Moscow's the worst offenders among the foreigners. Their evidence is the result of a police clamp-down

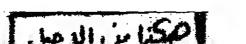
dent in New York in which the Russians claim several of their diplomats were man-handled by traffic police, who alleged the envoys were drunk and unruly.

The dispute escalated this week when the New York police issued two tickets on one day to Russia's ambassador to the UN.

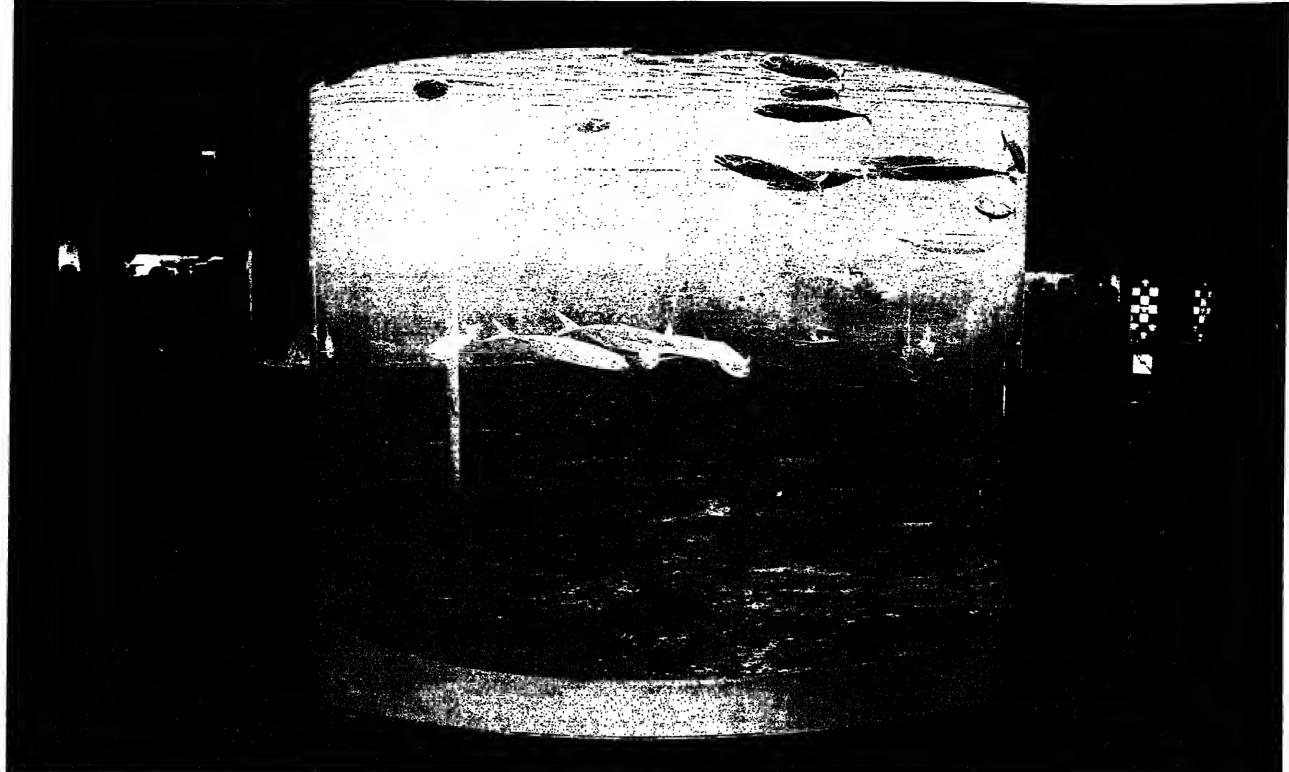
Under "Operation Foreigner, the city's police were instructed to stop and check foreign cars for two days. Every police officer knows that diplomats have red numberplates and other foreigners have yellow ones. One thousand vehi-So eyebrows were raised mong the thousands of foreign liplomats and husiness executives in the city when Moscow's 200 driving violations. And the traffic police released details of their survey? The worst offenders were the Americans, followed by the French, the British and the Vietnamese. which is widely believed as a litalians ahmad, it seems, are relcounter-attack after an inci- atively well-behaved.

SMOKIN THEREE

Chief Medical 1 mg Tar







The feeling of being in a goldfish howl is inescapable when you visit the aquarium at Port Vell in Barcelona, Spain. The aquarium, the largest in Europe, is an undercover succession of water tanks and walkways where the public and the fish can gaze at each other. Photograph by Emma Boam. Taken with a Nikon F90X with 160 ASA colour negative film with 28mm lens, 30th of second exposure at F4.



ishops used to wield considerable power and influence in the land, n matters secular as well as sacred. In the world at large, this has largely declined. A year or two hack l was struck that no churchman was included on the Nolao Committee as it enquired into moral standards in public

As I take up office as Bishop in the Diocese of Chester, I am acutely aware that oo an average Sunday only around 2.5 per cent of the population will

attend an Anglican place of worship.
The cultural fall out from the widespread apathy towards, or rejection of, the Christian Gospel in our land is a factor hehind a myriad of social trends, from sharply increased rates of suicide and crime, to unacceptable rates of family break up, and abortioo. Indeed, our persistent failure adequately to address a host of social problems suggests that they are beyond any merely secular or political solution.

As the churches seek to respond to this challenge, I helieve that for many people the place to start is simply with a sense of wonder. Archbisbop Michael Ramsey used to say that 'there is a space within each of us which only God can fill'. It is, I believe, ionate in all human beings to have a sense of transcendence and of wooder. It is experienced io maoy ways, including, but not limited to, religious cootexts. It may be when you fall in love, and suddenly the whole world is transformed. It may be to hold a new-born child, or at key moments in family life. It can be true when you are present with someooe as

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Every week we open this section with a remarkable picture. Now we offer words with similar impact. Today the thoughts of the newly enthroned Bishop of Chester, the Right Rev. Dr Peter Forster, on worship and the search for a sense of wonder.

their life slips away. It can he the beauty of a sunrise or sunset.

These momeots, wheo the world is transfigured with special meaning, illustrate and embody the human potential to know God. That potential, and these moments, hubble irrepressibly up in human existence, but in doing so they have to fight against the tendency in western culture to cash everything out in analytical lumps, to be examined and dissected. The desire to know cao hecome self-destructive, if it does oot recognise its own limits, and the things that pass heyond knowledge. We are living in the midst of a new industrial revolution, driveo by the amazing possibilities of informatioo technology. In human affairs, informatioo should serve knowledge, and knowledge should serve the higher purposes of wisdom. Wheo

mere information, no matter how

sophisticated or eotertaining the

medium in which it is emhodied, serves oo higher purpose it will eoslave and deaden the true human potential in

It was ao Eastern Orthodox priest making an official visit to the Church of England in the 1980s who remarked that, 'this Church needs a lot of prayer and fasting and silence and solitude'. We need to heware of 'poor, little, talk-ative Cbristianity'.

I cao remember the shock of the death in 1961 of that remarkable Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag Hammarskjold, in a plane crash. In the world of the early 1960s, drifting ever deeper into the cold war, he stood out as a heacoo of hope. He wrote this in his personal diary: God does not die on the day wheo we cease to helieve in a personal deity, hut we die on the day wheo our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiaoce, recewed daily, of a

all reason.

It is the task of the Church to point to this potential around and in us, and to articulate the innate seose of God which is present in everyone. Ahove all, this will require humility - it was T S Eliot who said that the true wisdom is always the wisdom of humility, because humility is endless. It will also need much patience. The world around us may be descending into a miasma of aggressive souodbites but the task of the Church is patiently to bear witness to its faith in the living God, who will always outlast the short-sighted obsessions which so blight the modern world.

An essential part of the churches' witness is embodied in worship. The Church of England is currently engaged in a renewal of its worship, on a scale upprecedented since the Reformation. There are signs that the loog twentieth-ceotury decline io church atteodaoce is over. The challenge hefore us is to integrate the eoduring elements in old and oew alike into a true and inner recewal of worship, which feeds the spirit and points to the wonder of God.

There is a short prayer, which was also found in Dag Hammarskjold's papers, which sums up the way in which I wish to approach my new ministry as a

For all that has been - Thanks! For all that shall be - Yes!

INSIDE

John Walsh meets **Lindsay Duncan**

'She is in no doubt of her status as a class act' page 3

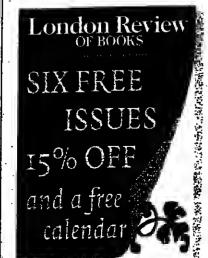
How to be a dinosaur and a Titan or two

Ray Harryhausen's special effects come to the stage page 4

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Arts and reviews	4,5
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Travel	11-17
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Shopping	20,21
Motoring	-
Property	
Money	
TV, radio reviews	

Alan Bennett suggests you turn over a new leaf in 1997 with the **London Review of Books** and also the most radical literary magazine we have'.



'Sent a complimentary (sic) copy of Waterstooe's Literary Diary which records the birthdays of various contemporary figures. Here is Dennis Potter on 17 May, Michael Frayn on 8 September, Edna O'Brien on 15 December, so naturally I turn to my own birthday. May 9 is blank except for the note: first British Launderette is opened on Queensway, London 1949.'

unpublished frogment from Alan Bennett's 1997 Diary

TIT, INTELLIGENCE, POLITICAL ANALYSIS, literary criticism and mirth. These and more are available for your intellectual pleasure this year and for years to come in the London Review of Books said by Alan Bennett to be 'the liveliest, the most serious

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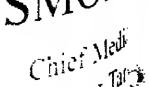
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Catching the doodle bug

How to read a person's character from their absent-minded squigglings

TOP. Read no further. Go away, get bored, and do some doodles on a blank sheet of paper. For doodles - according to some graphologists at any rate - may hold the key to your personality. The underlying idea of graphology is simple: writing is an automatic action controlled by your subconscious. Whether you loop your letters or angle them, how you join them together, how you spread them over the hlank page, indeed every tiny twitch of your writing fingers may hetray something of your inner turmoil.

While the finer points of graphology have never stood up to hard scientific testing, its basic premise is hard to deny - as anyone who bas ever received a letter written in scrawling block capitals in green ink will confirm. So while we would not go so far as to claim absolute validity for what follows, it may he worth taking some

Doodles done then while I was boring you with the last paragraph? Then on with the interpretation.

The first thing to look for is the position of the doodle of the page: extraverts doodle on the middle of the paper, showing their need to be at the centre of things. Doodling at the left is sign of worry and fear for what the future may hold; doodling on the right shows impulsiveness; high doodles betray impracticality and doodles at the foot of the paper warn of depression.

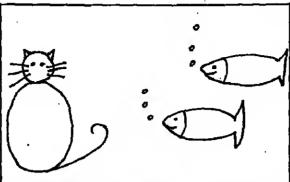
Next comes pressure: turn the paper over and hold it up to the light. Can you see a firm impression made by your pen or pencil? Assertive people push hard with their pens; sensitive, submissive doodlers doodle softly.

On to your inner spikiness; curvy doodles are a sign of sociability, angular doodles, they say, are a sign of detachment and poor interpersonal skills.

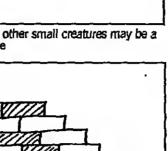
Now look for regularity and patterns: the more disciplined your doodle, the better organised you are likely to be - though squares and triangles, in the absence of curves, may indicate a lack of emotion and sensitivity. Take care also if you have been producing those obsessively tidy, walled-in, cross-hatched, knottedtogether doodles that can only be interpreted as showing a need to break out. And while piles of bricks may indicate regularity and discipline, beware if they are inverted pyramids, all balancing tenuously on a small base. That's a sure sign that you fear that your world is about to topple over.

So far it seems to make fair sense. The doodlological assertion that arrows, staircases and ladders are signs of ambition also seems rational, until you begin to wonder how to tell whether a ladder is going up or down, and whether the arrow is "Collect £200" or "Go to Jail".

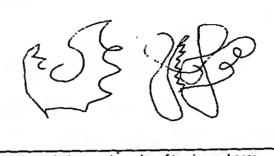
Pictures and faces bring further problem areas. Pictures of food may indicate hunger or over-eating. they say, while attractive faces may show sociability and ugly faces indicate suspicion and bad temper. After that, the theory of "You are what you draw" may become



Doodles of cats, fish and other small creatures may be a



Regular geometric shapes indicate a desire for organisation - but watch out for unstable piles of bricks

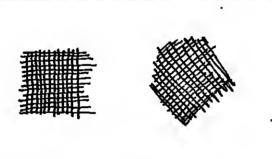


Repetitive doodles show concentration, perseverance and

MMM

0000

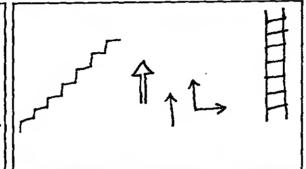
Abstract squiggles may be a sign of tension and poor



Bars and cross-hatching may hide a feeling of constriction and a desire to escape

ever more facile; houses indicate domesticity, hearts show romanticism, planes and cars a desire to travel.

A good deal of research has been done on the sex of any people seen in drawings. Results are inconclusive on whether people are more likely to draw pictures of their own or the opposite sex, but male adolescents have been shown to be more likely to draw nude women than nude men. Putting it all together, we arrive at the following definitive rules for doodle interpretation:



Arrows, ladders and stairs all point towards ambition and a need for achievement

1. When interpreting other people's doodles, speak in hroad generalities mixed with subtle personal insights. "You feel constricted by the pressures other people bring to bear on you" is always a good line.

2. Never show anyone else any of your own doodles. (For those with Internet access, more doodles may be found at: http://www.aunakoren.com/doodles.html)

William Hartston

Christmas Crossword competition – answers and winners

Cryptic solution: Across: t Glad Tidings Of Great Joy t Bring.
15 Glade. 16 Rover, 17 A Christmas Carot, 18 Castle, 19 Loose
20 Abase, 21 Steeple, 23 Orchestrating, 26 Sackbuts, 28 Grit, 30
Shetland Islands, 33 Light, 34 Imbue, 35 Rhomb, 37 Inculcated.
40 Solecisms, 42 Guncotton, 43 Protogue, 44 Estimate, 47 Noord, 56
Shetland Islands, 33 Light, 34 Imbue, 35 Rhomb, 37 Inculcated.
40 Elepement, 42 Assurance, 43 Competed, 44 Beatific, 47
Incompeted and Competed and Compe Instance, 49 Startles, 50 Charmaine, 53 Erudition, 55 Persistent, 56 Night, 53 Ashen, 50 Prone, 60 Hair Conditioner, 63 Ditt, 64 Trachoma, 65 Generalissimo, 69 Detract, 71 Ernst, 72 Grist, 73 Braise, 75 Throw In The Cards. 76 Union, 77 Ivory, 78 Sire He

Lives A Good League Hence. Down: t Gage, 2 Avalanche, 3 Trestle, 4 Dirge, 5 Novella, b. Sartorial, 7 Flare, 8 Rehearses, 9 Animalcule, 10 Jitter Bugged, 11 Years, 12. Backer, 13 Irreparable, 14 Gilbert Keith Chesterton, 22 Conservative Candidates, 24 Tension, 25 Gendarmeric, 27 Tetrode, 29 Divertimenti, 31 Libertarians, 32 Inches, 36 Ousts, 38 Locate, 39 Everlasting, 41 Sepsis, 45, Fling, 46 Screen, 48 Clipper, 51 Ant Hill, 52 Anton Chekhov, 54 Upholsterer, 57 Reconnects 60 Hearth Page 61 Continual 67 Nails Desay 66 Batting nects, 60 Hearth Rug, 61 Continual, 62 Nails Down, 66 Retsina, 67 Spanish, 68 Yahweh, 70 Tonal, 72 Gusto, 73 Bantu, 74 Byre.

Concise solution: Across: 1 Dissolution Of The Monasteries, 15 Tenet. 16 Saint, 17 Self Development, 18 Aghast. 19 Gubby, 20 Molar, 21 Risolto, 23 Negative Poles, 26 Overhang, 28 Style,

75. Experimentalist, 76 Agent. 77 Often. 78 The Importance Of

Being Earnest.

Down: 1 Date, 2 Synagogue, 3 Outcast, 4 Upset, 5 tring Up, 6 Notabilia, 7 Fussy. 8 Hale Moons, 9 Middle East 10 Nevertheless, 11 Solar, t2 Expose, t3 Ice Stations, t4 Set Someone's Fears At Rest, 22 Intelligence Department, 24 Vainest, 25 Steetworker, 27 Noodles, 29 Stock In Trade, 31 The North Pole, 32 Swains, 36 Tango. 38 Expert. 39 Stonewalled, 41 Pulses, 45 Aphis, 46 Escort, 48 Dwarfed, 51 Radiant, 52 Tying The Knot, 54 Eating Apple, 57 Bloodstain, 60 Fish Slice, 61 Orangeade, 62 Lorgnette, 66 Galleon, 67 Outdoor, 68 Marram, 70 Limbo, 72 Motif, 73 Lathe,

Winners: The two first prizes, copies of the A & C Black, OUP Who's Who 1897-1996 on CD-Rom, were won by t Matheson of Stornoway and Mrs E Kelly of Purley. Runners-up, receiving the new Oxford Dictionary of Quotations:: J Goodyear, Chardstock: C & C Blare, St Andrews; K McAndrews, Heaton: Mr J Wood. Ulversion: Mrs M Kinch, Bradford-on-Avon: Alan Scott, Scot-

stour; G Price, Aberystwyth, Reginald Killy, Coventry, Mr & Mrs R Stumbles, Llandrinded Wells: Francis Fitzgibbon, London NW5; Mrs E Harrington, London SE& Mrs Gloria Fugg, Strumpshaw, R Luker, Caterham; A Horton, Maldenhead, Mr & Mrs P Reynolds, Morriston: P Finn, Gravesend: Tina Dixon, Warmin ton; J Atherton, Burweil; C Bloomfield, St Albans; Mr J Francis,

Children's puzzle

Solution: Across: 1 Tortoise, 5 Pupper, 9 Meatball, 10 Sponge, 11 Hoist, 12 Interrupt, 14 Watership Down, 17 Fostermothers, 20 Gone to sea, 21 Opera, 22 Spider, 23 Judoists, 24 Insist, 25 Peter Pan. Down: 1 Tomahawk, 2 Realist, 3 Orbit, 4 Selfishness, 6 Upper-most, 7 Penguin, 8 Twenty, 13 Tape measure, 15 Rose trees, 16 Assassin, 17 Fancies, 18 Evens up. 19 Agassi, 21 Ozone. Winners: The first prize, a copy of the nine volume Oxford Childen's Encyclopaedia. was won by Surah Cooper. Cherwynd Middle School, Nuneaton, Runners-up, receiving The Young Oxford History of Britain and Ireland: Ben Watson, King's School, Cambridge: James Colville, Raughton Head Primary School; Amy Hodgson, Heron Hill School, Rendal: Jonathan Moore, Trinity Middle School, Newbort: Charlotte Aitchison, Heathside School, Wey-

Games people play

Pandora Melly talks to a high-speed Sandy Gali

I play golf, which is not very exciting. Would you like to hear about the Cresta Run instead? It's a tobogganing run at St Moritz, invented by the British in the late 1890s. They went to Switzerland for their health - very often as a cure for tuberculosis - and to amuse themselves they took up tobogganing. Then someone bad the idea of building a track out of snow and ice, which became the Cresta Run. It's rebuilt every winter, half-a-mile long with lots of curves and corners, down which the cream of British youth burl themselves. Winston Churchill was the youngest rider ever - at 14, which is strictly against the

It's a very serious husiness: the Cresta Run has killed five people. One man fell out at a big bend called "The Shuttlecock" and another hit a railway sleeper which had been left across the run instead of being put across the road to stop the traffic. I only mention this because the good

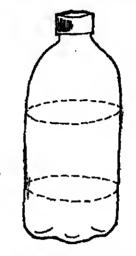
Sandy Gall, 69. writer/broadcaster boys are travelling very fast: about 70 miles an hour towards the bottom of the run.

You lie on a toboggan and go down head first, steering by leaning into the corners. I'm a complete novice and very bad at it, hut I used to toboggan in Scotland as a boy. I'd heard about the Cresta Run and eventually made two documentaries about it.

I thought I'd have a go when we'd finished filming. We all went down, and I am ashamed to say that my cameraman and soundrecordist were much faster than me. Later, in the club-house, the announcer said: "Sandy Gall's time was so-and-so", and they told me that I was the slowest man since Errol Flynn. And he had stopped to light a cigarette.

Traditionally pre-Cresta courag may be obtained by mixing a chilled can of Campbell's Consomme (46p) with a large stug of Red Stolichnaya vocika (£12.19 from Oddbins). Experiment with proportions until audacity/vision/ balance are at optimal levels.

Don't junk it ... use it The cola-powered plastic propagator



In the winter, a recycler's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of gardening, so here's how to turn a used soft-drink bottle into a safe and healthy environment for your

Cut plastic bottle into three sections, as indicated by the dotted

Fill the bottom section with gravel for drainage.

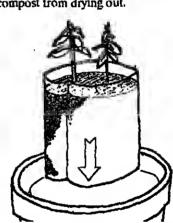
Make a sharp inward crease down the length of the middle section to make it a little thinner.

Leave the top section alone.

Now reassemble the hottle, squeezing the middle section to fit inside the rim of the bottom

Fill with potting or secd compost and plant your seeds.

Then replace the top section over your middle section to create a sun roof, protecting and warming the seedlings and preventing the compost from drying out.



When your seedlings are ready, pot them up by simply removing the middle section of the propagator and pushing the entire plug of compost and plants down

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

200

The Games Page is edited by William Hartston

Chess William Hartston



You're White, it's your move, and your opponent has just offered you a draw. What do you do?

The first thing to do. naturally enough, is to suspect his motives. Has he spotted some devastating discovered check with the knight? Probably not, since any knight move must be to a black square, where anything it attacks will be on a white square, so the black queen and knight are safe. On the other hand. 1,Ne3+ forces 1...Kg3 (1...Kh4 2.Qg4 mate or 1...Kh2 2.Qf2+ are fatal

for Black) when only the

presence of the white queen on 15 stops White from delivering a devastating knight fork. So perhaps, before

accepting the draw offer. we should pursue this line 1.Ne3+ Kg3 2.Qg4+ Kf2 3.Of4+ Ke2 but now what? Well, we can continue 4.Qf1+ since the knight is immune from capture 14...Kxe3 loses the queen to 5.Qet+) so let's continue: 4...Kd2 5.Qd1+ Kc3 6.Qc2+. Now we seem to be getting somewhere since 6...Kd4 allows the knight fork on f5 that we've been waiting so long to play. So Black must play 6....Kb4 when 7.Qh2+ leads to mate after 7...Ka5 8.Ne4+ Ka6 4.Qh6. Ah, hut Black plays 7...Nb3 instead shielding his king and getting out of trouble. Perhaps we'd better take that draw after

Wrong! 8.Qa3+!! Kxa3 9.Nc2 is mate. (From a study by Leonid Kubbel).

Perplexity

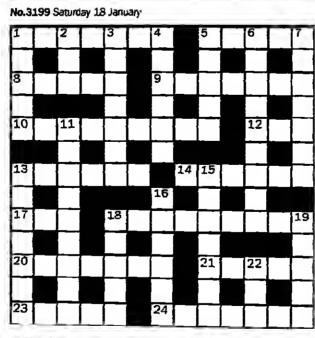
Mixed doubles:

Crave colossal lanky shingled mid-bovine shins

The six words in the above sentence hide the names of three people who have been in the news in the past week. To find them, you must group the words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair.

Each answer consists of a first name plus surname. The first correct answer opened on 29 January will win a copy of the new Chambers 21st Century Dictionary Answers to: Perptexity. The Independent. 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.

concise crossword



ACROSS

- French composer (7) Make speech (5) Leather strap (5) Advance (7)
- 10 Story-teller (9) 12 Mineral deposit (3) 13 Roman emperor (6) 14 Help (6)
- 17 Writing fluid (3) 18 Building designer (9) 20 Synthetic material (6) 21 Burdened (5) 23 Awe (5) 24 Difficult (7)

Put off (5)

DOWN

- Zodiac sign (3) Flower (7) Meal (6) Smell (5) Say sorry (9) Mountain (7)
- 11 End of game (9) 13 Cut hedge e.g. (7) 15 Crash helmet (7) 16 Shrub (6) 18 Performed (5)
- 19 Gripping implement for sugar-lumps (5) 22 Twosome (3)

. ha illi a liso!

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: t Trest, 4 Passing (Trespassing), 8 Electra, 9 Lisle, 10 Tides, t1 Undress, 13 Free, 15 Popeve, 17 Scotch, 20 Loth, 22 Jockeys, 24 Aroma, 26 U-turn, 27 Rainbow, 28 Tectors, 29 Entry, DOWN: 1 Trectop, 2 Emend, 3 Satisfy, 4 Plaque, 5 Salad, 6 Inspect, 7 Guess, 12 Nest, 14 Reb., to Picture, 18 Chalice, 19 Headway, 21 Osiris, 22 Jaunt, 23 Ernie, 25 Orbit.

Bridge Alan Hiron

In the first two questions of the Christmus Competition, you were asked to mark five possible solutions to hidding problems out

I) As South at love all, you held: ♦AKQ6 79765432 ÷κ North East South

10 pass 1+ pass The choices offered were 3 . 4♠. 2♠. 3♠ and 4♠ which I rate as worth 2, 6, 10, 7 and 8

points out of 10 respectively. The trouble with the direct spade raises is that they both seem underbids. If partner is short in hearts, there could easily be a slam but, as he clearly has very poor spades, it is most unlikely that he will be able to cooperate. 34 certainly has the nierit of agreeing spades but, by suggesting some length in clubs.

might easily cause partner to misvalue his hand, especially if he has, say, three small cards in the suit. 44, a splinter showing club shortage and healthy spade support, is nearer the mark hut will still make it difficult for North. If you tell him that you are short in clubs, he may well not realise that you are equally short in diamonds.

On balance. I would plump for 2♣ ~ the fourth suit and forcing. As the South hand is difficult (impossible?) to describe, why nnt give North plenty of room to tell you what he holds? You might, for example, hear enthusiasm for hearts; the other options would have effectively ruled out the chance of playing in anything other than spades.

2) As South, with East-West vulnerable, you held ጥJ 1074

♦Q1108 **♦**KQ642 North East South 45 North's 20 is a Multi-either

a West Two in a major or a strong three-suited hand. The suggested possibilities were 50, 60, 70, 5 and 4NT. Few players will agree with me in this guessing game, hut I rate their respective points us 6, 4, 2, 8 and 10.

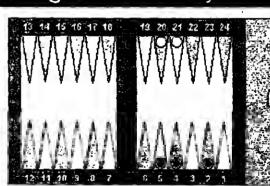
Here you have to make a big assumption - has partner got a Weak Two in hearts? (a drawback of the Multi!). 6 and 70 both seem rather wild, but may work well, while 5♥ sounds rather feeble. 5 is a nice idea for now West has to take a position at a high level, but I prefer 4NT. This caters for the (remote) possibility that partner is strong, and may well persuade West that his partner is pre-empting with very long spades and does not have too strong a defensive hand.

3) South, dealer at love all, held: **♦**A (Y) 864 7AJ853 974

You were asked what was the lowest value for (Yt in order to open the hidding. I shall be generous in the marking here; as long as you do not insist on (Y) being the king or queen, then full marks, I would start things off even if Y were the two! I am sure it pays off over the years if you hold both majors.

More answers, and all the winners, next week.

Backgammon Chris Bray



This was the first puzzle in our Christmas quiz: Black on roll, should he double? And should White accept? This type of bear-off problem arises frequently and it is good to know how to cope with it. Hugh Sconyers, a top US player, has produced a set of CDs that give the exact answers to such problems where each side has fewer than nine men left. Unfortunately - or perhaps fortunately - you can't have a PC at your side when playing, so mere mortals have to resort to a little hard work to come up with the right answer.

Let's look at the take side first. To take a double White needs 25 per cent winning chances. Time for a little calculation: unless Black rolls 6-6, 5-5 or 4-4, White will have a chance to take off his two men with one roll - which he can do with 10 rolls (6-6, 5-5, 4-4, 3-3, 6-5, 5-6, 6-4, 4-6, 5-4, 4-5). He will have the chance to roll these numbers in 33/36 games and will win the game 9.2 times in 36 attempts (10 x 33/36). Winning nine games would give him the required 25 per cent so it is apparent that White has a take. He has additional chances because Black may not bear off his men in two rolls. In fact after rolls of 1-1, 2-1 and 3-1 for Black it is correct for White to redouble!

But all of this suggests that White has only a borderline take. So it should be clear that Black has a strong double. He will lose his market if be waits. Using the Hugh Sconyers CD mentioned above the equities for Black are 0.32 points if he waits, 0.46

points if he doubles. So the answer is double/take. Of course, in real life things can be different. When I recently had this position I doubled and my opponent dropped. Thus I raised my equity from 0.46 points to I full point. This reinforces the view that most significant errors are made with the doubling cube. Solutions to problems 2 and 3, and names of the winners, will be given in subsequent weeks.

TURN TO PAGE 31... for the weather, sky at night, Jasper Rees on TV, Robert Hanks on radio and Damien Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst

play high-speed Sandy Gal

Doys are travelling very lead of the bostom of the run. tos as on a tobassas and

down head first, steering la leading into the content of the complete newice and ten had a scompanie mental and communication in the base I used to te beginning in the Scotland as a resp. Pel formulation Run and exemples. the Creste Ruy and eventually made two documentation while their control of the state of the sta

I throught I'd have a driven we'd finished filming We distance to the control of we'd imposed the achieved have desired to see that my names amon and a migme. Later, in the elicingular that annual error which sends Gall time was a send sends Gall time was a send sends of the transfer to the sends of th the true I was the stone of the whee E-tol Plant Valle and Supplemental Land Control of the Contro

Practice will produce to the contraction Miles the Children I to making a char COR of Cappening Commen Compression of the state of the Oditon Dryson man Service of the property of the service of the servi

use it

propagator In the winter, $x \in \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{A}}$ stand with a sum of $x \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{A}}$ gurdaning some some tripe, and tripe,

and the company of the property

Softman Cot Made in the made

was the man to be the

. We have the state of $\Delta g_{\rm A}$

Bown O'Beirne-Ranels

nmon Chris Bray

The stainless steel queen

number you are, but no one knows the status of anyone else. Then you have to walk around the room as befits your status and, by the end

here's a game that actors and directions play at rehearsals, one of those limiting but I can't be described as English cod-psychological, role-assigning anyway. She was born in Scotland. Her paramisements that's meant to sharpen ents were working-class Scots, from Glasgow Status Game and the director, oh but let Lindsay was five or six first to Leeds then Lindsay Duncan tell it: Well, the director Birmingham where she grew up. When peoples you a status, from one to 10 - so a king ple hear the way I speak, they think I'm from or a ritler would be a 10 - and tells you which some comfortable middle-class background. But we didn't have a lot of money. We didn't have a telephone or a car. Both my parents spoke with Scottish accents. A lot of expresof the exercise; you should have in theory sions they used were Scots army slang... "formed a line going from 10 down to one, just she adopted a sudden Iain Cuthbertson by expressing rank. The secret is, of course, delivery—"They uised to say, 'Kit'na budgie?', that the person with the highest status doesn't meaning 'What time is it?'. I don't know how

John Walsh meets

don't have to do anything. The more thrash-ing around you do, the more something is class daughter? "Well, it's not an unfaobviously amiss with you..."

Somebody must have whispered a number in Ms Duncan's ear at an early age perhaps available education for your chil-not a 10, but deriably a seven or eight. She's dren, I got a lot of support from a woman who never seems in doubt of her sta-them, even though I went to an tus as a class act. On stage she radiates a pas- ordinary primary school." But sionate confidence, a feline concentration that was she aware of heing culturleaves audiences breathless, whether in Tennessee Williams's Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (for was so strange - like heing which she got the Evening Standard's Best brought up on parallel lines. My Actress award or as the decadent, scheming parents didn't belong in Birming. Marquise de Merieuil in Les Liaisons Dan-geneuses (which transferred from the West End to New York picking up en route an Olivier, a Tony and the impressively weighty "Theatre World Award for Outstanding New Talent"). On television she can do wifely parts with docile conviction, playing the supportive but hopeless Mrs Peter Mayle in the BBC's doomed production of A Year in Provence or the recommittee for the blockers with the production of the provence or the recommittee for the blockers. the eponymous, free thinking elerical spouse __movies, We had family outings to the cinema in Joanna Irollope's The Rector's Wife; and just every week, I must have started going when as you think you've got her number — as a __I was very small; because I remember taking modern, blonde Celia Johnson, put-upon in today bear along in a shopping bag."

five month tour of America with the RSC's, may about letting go." But can she actually production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, sing? She smiled sweetly. "Only under in which (scoring a definite 10 on the Richter inpuntherapy, scale of status) she played both Titania and Hipportyta, her husband, the actor Hilton Lindsay Duncai appeared as from nowhere McRae came too with their five year oldson, in her mid-thirties, in Les Liaisons Dan-Cal. She returned to star in Harold Pinter's, genties, reasoning that such an obvious star most recent played Ashes at takes at the nost recent playlet. Ashes to Ashes, at the could not have gone unnoticed all through her Royal Court last September. Authors week, twentes. Where had she been? She hridled hardly drawing breath succe the close of a little. It's no great mystery. I didn't get to

isoyai courtast esplember. Astribert week. Inventions. Where had she been? She hrided hardly drawing breath since the close of Asher, she turns up in another. Plater production, this time his violent creepy drams of dystunctional maleures and mass seduction. The Homecomory, which is in preview at the National Steptie.

Sitting firstles bar as the National, see is a first that the plate. The homecomory is a first to be plated in the national see is a first to be plated. The homecomory is a first to be plated in the national see is a first to be plated. The homecomory was a first to be plated in the national see is a first to be plated in the national see is a first to be plated in the national see is a first to be plated in the national section of the national sect

do anything at all; just because their status I spoke but it wasn't Scots or Birmingham. I means they don't have to try. It's a useful act- can remember two friends of my older ing exercise because it teaches you that, if hrother saying, 'Ooh, 'ere cooms the your extraly powerful because of your title or Queen' because I spoke posh, but I don't your personality or degree of confidence, you know where it came from "How did her miliar journey, is it? It happens a lot. You just get your hands on the best available education for your chilally distant from her father? "It ham. I didn't belong in Birmingham. I just longed for something else."

Her escape was in daydreams, with two distinct plot lines. 'I had a clear and long-running fantasy of being some kind of loosely defined toyalty, a mysterious European princess, but I was also a detective in a macking the most we didn't have comics or a television. in the house, so it must have come from the moves. We had family ontings to the cinema.

motern; monde. Ceta Johnson; put upon: my today sear along in a shopping bag, but gorgeously resilient—she turns up in a ... A later, and still rimning fantasy, was to spectacular basque blaying the femine later. play a chantense on stage, like that woman. Barbara in Alan Bleastale's GBH, or as Al ... what's her name, tying on top of the piano—Pacino's massis; in Cay Hall. She is by no ... Michelle Pfeiffer in The Fabulous Baker means easy to typecast.

Boyd: At some point you just have to open she spent much of last year abroad on a ... your mouth and let it you. Just have to a fan-

because you are, after all, the acting ASM..." What were the plays like? "Oh - French Without Tears, safe and popular stuff. Some. of it was absolutely ghastly. Agatha Christie, detective plays. I remember one called Public Mischief - terrible stuff, recycled all the time. But in those days you were so excited about getting your Equity card, you'd do Agatha Christie until your eyes crossed to get

the f ** ing card." She pulled a stray blonde, hank, reminiscently. "And also it was summer, and it was so mad - we were sleeping in the dormitory of a boys' public school, in this quaint little English seaside town locked somewhere between the Thirties and the

whole household. The men discuss her openly as a "scrubber" and "slut" and, by the time the curtain falls, Teddy has gone and Ruth remains – though whether as sex, slave. housekeeper or dominatrix, is never clear.
Was it clear to her? Ms Duncan turned a slightly pitying smile towards me. "Not only do I understand it, I can't think of anything that makes more sense to me. I expect I'll have a lorryload of crap dumped on my head

'I had a clear and long-running fantasy of being some kind of loosely defined royalty. A mysterious European princess. But I was also a detective in a mackintosh'

Goodness. The sight of Ms Duncan in when the play opens, but I feel completely ecstasy is a most appealing one. And she has at home with it." a way of slowing down her speech to a languorous crawl just this side of silence. (She enunciates the word "sex" as if entranced by the sound it makes: "seck... [two-second pause] ... ss.") It is perhaps the suggestion of sensuous appetite behind the regal sophistication that is her most potent weapon. Had she, by any chance, fallen in love with her

Cambridge don who padded around in his plimmies, very stiff in the joints, seemed about a hundred to me, and his wife Joan, who was an actress manquee.

sibility of getting some territory to call her own. That's why I don't think of her as a seductress. I see her as using her sexuality wife Joan, who was an actress manquee. Cambridge don who padded around m got all the leading parts in her age range and he directed her. Me, I had a completely obvious affair with another actor. It was a

great summer. What else did you want?"

Public Theatre when she was 31, the Royal Shakespeare Company took her on (she played Helen of Troy in Troilus and Cressida at Stratford), theo the National Theatre, movies, television. She managed to survive a critical mailing that would have sent other actresses into permanent exile, when the BBC launched their miscooceived A Year in Provence: "Pointless, witless, hopeless and - all those super-protective Joanna Trollope fans - 00 her neck. "I had clergy wives who wanted to talk to me about it. They said, Don't let them soften it. I've never been involved in anything before where people approach you because they worry about how it's going to be done. So much for all the intellectual snohbery about Joanna Trollope. She's obviously got a direct line to an awful

lot of people." And now she's back in Pinter country, playing the Vivien Merchant role in the great playwright's 1965 domestic nightmare. "I I was doing The Homecoming. I'd have been terribly depressed and bereft. Pinter has this unmistakeable voice - it's such a familiar or time. And he's always for you." landscape to me, it carries the ring of route through people."

territory. Its thirtysomething young couple, Ruth (Duncan) and Teddy (Keith Allen), arrive back from America at Teddy's family I'm more a stainless steel sort of girl."

What did she think it was about? "It

home, where his querulous, bullying father

rules a speciacularly nasty roost and his brothers. Lenny and Joey, move in on his wife

like rutting dogs. Ruth herself changes from nervous wife into sexual predator, apparently with designs on both hrothers, if not the

seems to me the whole play is about people fighting for their territory. It's what happens in families. It's clear how the men go about their husiness with each other, so the arrival of a woman is both desirable and threaten-ing. But she badly needs some territory her-self - she's got this husband and three childirector? She laughed with delight. dren, three American children, and when "Hardly. The place was run by Sam, a she comes to this place, she sniffs the pos-

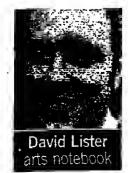
Every summer they came over from dient in that household. And the play's Cambridge and ran Southwold rep. She about that curious interdependence which we all share and we all try to wriggle out of, but we can't. She oeeds them and they need her and the degree of dependency will vary all the time."

Did she find all the misogynistic rant a bit hen she hit the big time, life tiring? But the hostility is an indicator. she speeded up. Top Girls took her to said patiently, like a psychology lecturer. New York and Joseph Papp's You don't go around speaking to people as Lenny does unless you're slightly oervous of them. And it raises all those questions about how tidy our lives are - about what you're likely to find behind any froot door...

Ms Duncan's critique of her new role is so unexpectedly floent, one wishes she could be persuaded to unbutton to the same degreeabout her likes and dislikes. Talking about how she compares with, say, Vivien Merchant useless was one of the more positive indge- for radiating creepiness, she said she prefers ments. When she starred as Anna, the Rec- complicated characters ("So that, eveo if tor's Wife who gets a job stacking super- they're wielding a cleaver, you still can't miss market shelves as a blow for independence, -their vulnerability"), and I asked if she'd like you could feel the breath of middle England to go really over the top one day - like, say, Glenn Close... The effect was electric. Ms Duncan's face positively contorted at the mention of the actress who played the Marquise de Merteuil (the part that Duncan had made her own) in the film of Liaisons. "Did you actually see the 101 Dalmatians?" she asked through her teeth. "Yes, yes," I said. "It was jolly good. I thought Ms Close in par-ticular was..." "You're definitely entering Don't Quote Me territory here," said Ms Duncan severely, and would not be drawn into further indiscretion. We ended in a fusillade of praise of Harold Pinter, with whom eouldn't have borne it, finishing Ashes, "said" she clearly enjoys a passionate mutual admi-Ms Duncan theatrically, "if I hadn't known ration: "He has this fantastic degree of concentration, this rigorous intelligence, and he doesn't blether on. He doesn't waste words

The brittle queenly Ms Duncan, lowabsolute authenticity. I just believe in his status background long behind her, highstatus career intact, made to leave. Such a Authenticity, eh? The Homecoming, like curious blend of coolness and passion, many a Pinter drama, starts naturalistically, warmth and aloofness. Some distant memhut sheers off into surreal and unsettling ory of The Rector's Wife made me ask: do you possess an Aga? "No I don't," said Lindsay Duncan shortly, "and I'm not looking for one.

I shall have a small wager on Janet McTeer to heat her more illustrious rivals, Vanessa Redgrave, Diana Rigg and Eileen Atkins, to scoop the Olivier award for best actress next month. Her riveting and revelatory portrayal of Nora in The Doll's House took oo an added dimension in the last performances. Struck down by the West End virus that has brought work to so many understudies of late, Ms McTeer gamely refused to give way. In the the run, which I witnessed



last weekend, she ad libbed to apologise to Kristina for her "terrible cold", offered her a glass of water so she could take regular stps herself, and most notably penultimate performance of went the entire three hours with a haodkerchief

clutched in her palm. Somehow the hankie hecame part of the play, a visible symbol of Nora's growth as with every torturing self examination she squeezed it. toyed with it or just plain blew her nose wheo no words could he found to express her increasing dismay at her husband's insensitivity.

Thank goodness she

wasn't playing Desdemona. when the invaluable prop would have had to be dropped. As it was, it became a character enforcing emblem that Ibsen himself would have applauded.

Cultural machismo as an arts funder clearly is no longer measured by the size of the benefactor's cheque book, but the size of his album collection. David Mellor as Heritage Secretary boasted of his 3,000 CDs. But this week Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, managed to trump that. Addressing the Association of British Orchestras' conference in

ahead of Mellor's tweeter. Describing himself as "a great Poo-Bah of Hi-Fi", Lord Gowrie was able to reel off a CV which included

he was several woofers

Manchester, he proved that

President of the Federation of British Andio and director of Verity Engineering, which makes Quad and Mission "gramophones", as he

endearingly still calls them. Then he played his ace. "I own and regularly sample," he said, "about a thousand CDs and two thousand LPs. half of them jazz." Eat your heart out, Mellor.

The subtext is plain. Anyone with a bit of dosh can build up a CD collection. But 2,000 LPs. It's the dedication to viny! that shows the true enthusiast. And this is no simple Blur and Beethoven earl. Note the telling phrase "half of them jazz". It is

such painstakingly crafted throwsway lines that make aesthetic reputations.

Chris Evans's departure from Radio I might be seen as poetic justice in Scotland. When he broadcast a breakfast show from Inverness, he caused considerable consternation with his repeated calls on air for "tartan totty". While totty is slang down south for an eligible young woman, north of the border it retains its centuries' old meaning of young child.

Sir Alan Ayckbourn is likely to have to make another

defence of his theatre and, indeed, theatre generally just a few weeks after the "Iuvvies or lavatories" row in Scarborough. The Stephen Joseph Theatre, of which Sir Alan is artistic director, faces a £70,500 cut from North Yorkshire council, which seems unfazed by the damning publicity Scarborough councillors received when they reportedly threatened to spend £50,000 on public conveniences rather than the theatre. That sounded like the plot of an Ayckbourn play. In fact, it was more Kafka, as I am assured by all parties in

Scarborough that it was never a case of choosing between plays and lavatories. The facts were simply not allowed to get in

the way of a good story. The North Yorkshire threat could be more worrying. Arts has to compete within the council's education hudget. Defending theatre against libraries and teachers' pay will be more difficult than defending it against an increase in public conveniences. It is a great pity that North Yorkshire's placing of arts in the education hudget is likely to force such a debate.

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arts & books

Skeletons in the cupboard

Who needs a budget of millions to re-create Ray Harryhausen's special effects on stage, when you can have two blokes and a pipe? James Rampton reports on a tribute to the master of stop-frame

hrill to dinosaurs walking the earth. Mar-vel at a platoon of sword-wielding skele-tons. Wonder at a perambulating, 100ft bronze Titan and a six-armed sword-fighting statue. Tremble at a mighty earthquake. And gasp at a submarine plumbing the ocean depths.

Come with us on a Fantastical Voyage – at the Purcell Room for one week only.

So what does it take to conjure up all these mindblowing effects on stage? A Ben Hur-sized army of extras, surely, supported by a learn of special-effects wizards on a Cameron Mackintosh-proportioned budget? Er, no, actually it takes two blokes and a pipe. Io Fantastical Voyage, Gavin Robertson and Andy Taylor re-enact highlights from the films of Ray Harryhausen – Jason and the Argonauts (1963), One Million Years BC (1966), The Golden Voyage of Sinbad (1973), and Clash of the Tutans (1981) – cmologing nothing more than a bit of brier and a sinbad (1973), and Clash of the Titans (1981) — cmploying nothing more than a bit of briar and a vivid imagination. (The pipe is crucial for portraying the Richard Hannay stiff-upper-lip types courageously battling the monsters.) Robertson has travelled this road before as the co-creator of the highly-successful stage-show. Thunderbirds F.A.B., which ran for four seasons in London's West End during the early 1990s.

Old school frieods, who know each other so well they finish each other's sentences. Robertson and

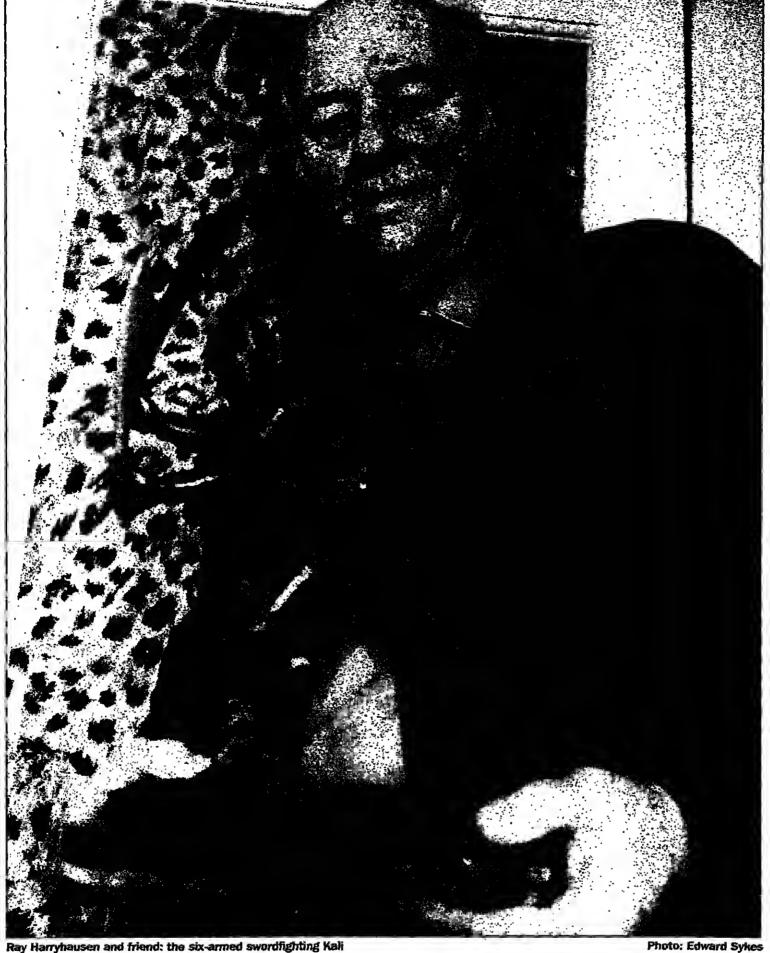
they finish each other's sentences, Robertson and Taylor are relaxing between rehearsals in a north London café. Taylor explains the absence of props:
"You use the economy of the theatre. One of our producers wanted moving water to indicate the ocean. But that would just bring home the fact that we've got no set. Once you start trying to re-create scenes exactly, you might as well watch a film."

By the same token, the duo wear just one all-pur-pose costume throughout the show. It's far easier that way," Taylor continues. "You're playing a gladlator one minute and a dinosaur the next, so what do you do? Strip off and oil yourself down to play Spartacus and then strap on a tail? No, you just come out holding yourself in an 'I'm well-oiled' sort of way... Then to re-create a dinosaur, you plod heavily, think to yourself, 'I've got a hig fat arse' and swing it accordingly. People think, 'oh, there's a tail there'. They go along with the suppression of disthere.' They go along with the suspension of dis-belief. We use the audience's imagination rather

than years of studying with Jacques Le Coq."
This method does, of course, demand something of the audience; you can't just sit there, slack-jawed with popcorn in hand, waiting for a squadron of lifelike. Spielberg-esque velociraptors to come scuttling towards you. "You have to establish the rules in the first 15 minutes and stick to them," Robertson contends. "It's about telling a story in a way that isn't reliant on giving you information verbally. Both our childreo love being read to. My two-year-old doesn't understand sentences, but he responds to stories. They're so different from videos because you have to use your imagination. People say to us after the show, I was surprised by how hard I had to work.' They have to fill in the details and say to themselves, 'it's a temple or a submarine'.

Drawing on the vernacular of the screen, this style travels well. "Tve coined the phrase, 'living theatrical film'," says Robertson. "It taps into that subconscious language we all know from TV and cinema. Editing is a way of telling a story. If you have a shot of a man, followed by a shot of a woman, followed by a shot of a wedding-bell ringing, you know they're going to get married."

The show leans heavily on the conventions of mime and has been viewed with disdain in certain quarters. "In Britain, we're obsessed with the text." Robertson says, "It's very hard to get movement-based work accepted." Because it utilises Harryhausen's work as source-material, Fantastical Voyuge has also been dubbed unoriginal. "That annoys me." says Robertson. "When people questioned why



ics say it's throwaway, but we re taking the art of sitting around the campfire to a different place."

In the show and in the interview, Robertson and Taylor's deep love for all things Harryhauseo shines through. Like the Daleks or Captain Scarshines through. Like the Daleks or Capiam Scar-let, his creatures – Talos, say, or the six-armed, swordfighting statue, Kali – are part of every thir-tysomethiog's collective childhood. I, for one, remember cowering behind the sofa as Jason duelled with those infurintingly unkillable skeletons. Robertson and Taylor are adamant that their rig-omisty precise recreation of the distinctive, slightly

Lindsay Kemp was doing Shakespeare, he said, 'I like to work in the company of great people.' Critics say it's throwaway, but we're taking the art of sit-

orously precise recreation of the distinctive, slightly jerky movement that characterises stop-motion animation does not take the mickey out of Harrybausen. "It's a fine line," Robertson concedes, "but people don't laugh because stop-frame animation people don't laugh because stop-traine aminaton is crap. They laugh because it's two men trying to re-create the movements. It's not a pisstake, it's an affectionate look at his work. The affection comes through in the feeling people have when they leave. We had the same response with *Thunderbirds* of something shared, remembered and appreciated. When we did *Fantastical Voyage* in Edinburgh, during the prolonge the audience went 'a-ba'. There

When we did rantastical voyage in Edinburgh, difing the prologue the audieoce weot 'a-ba'. There
was a collective sigh of recognition."

Quick as a flash, Taylor jumps in. "No one is going
to come away saying, "Weren't Harryhausen's films
awful? Stop-frame animation is still an artform. Nick
Park proves that." But what does the great man himself think of the project? "I was initially shocked
because I thought I was going to be sent up." Harseit think of the project? "I was initially snocked because I thought I was going to be sent up," Harryhauseo tells me. Having met Robertson and Taylor, he is now reassured of their bona fides; the show is, after all, an acknowledgement of the impact his models have had on a generation of cinema-goers. Harryhausen was inspired to go into film-making when he saw his mentor Willis O'Brien's classic version of King Kong in 1933. "It was the wonderful way the film jed you from the mundane world to the most

the film led you from the mundane world to the most

outrageous fantasy ever put on screen," he recalls, "We all need to escape from our everyday duties." He went on to develop the revolutionary technique of "dynamation" – "live action combined with animated models" – and to win an Oscar for his contribution. The process is highly labour-intensive; working at 24 frames a second, the celebrated fighting skalatons requires from Jason and the dree ing skeletons sequence from Jason and the Argonauts, for example, took five months to film. On screen, it lasted just five minutes.

from his movies. Harryhausen sees a continuing use for the technique he pionereed. "I feel there's still an advantage in stop-motion because it gives the action a dream-like quality. Everyone knows that the Centaur doesn't exist, so what's the point of trying to pretend that it does? If you make fantasy too real, then it destroys itself."

Funtastical Voyage is a happy marriage. Harryhauseo dwells in the same realm of the imagination as Robertson and Taylor. They are all mining our deepfelt desire to dream, "Everyone has a skeleton inside them," Harryhausen muses. "Some of my best friends are skeletoos."

Fantastical Voyage is at the Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 8800) as part of the London International Mirne Festival from Wed 22 to Sun 26 Jan and at the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester (0116-253 9797) on Wed 13 and Thur 13 Feb as part of the Leicester Comedy Festival



And here to present the Independent Weekend Award for Most All-Embracing Awards Shortlist Ever Ever is... David Benedict

rom tunoel-visioo to television. Judges presiding over such parochial affairs as the Whitbread, Turner, Brit, Booker and Bafta awards have been put in their places. Melvyn Brogg and his jolly crew aboard the good ship South Bank Show are rouching up their tarnished regutation - too many suspicious co-productions with record companies and the like - and polishing their profile by launch-

ing their very own awards scheme. Their "unique selling point" is that they cover the entire arts world with 11 categories from opera to comedy via pop. literature and TV drama (the last two, of course, being entirely disconnected). It's the scheduler's dream. Post-modernists and media-studies types will probably faint dead away from sheer pleasure as high- and low-cultural icons ruh shoulderpads. Victoria Wood goes Trainspotting. Glyndehourne meets Oasis, and Rachel

Whiteread can east the entire cast. At the 1983 Booker do, Selina Scott famously failed to recognise one of the judges, Angela Carter, asking her "Have you read any of the books?" What I want to know is: what have these judges read? The literature list is Norman Davies's historical analysis Europe. Seamus Heaney's collection The Spirit Level and Seamus Deane's first novel Reading in the Dark.





Something to Bragg about? Bryn Terfel, Seamus Heaney, Victoria Wood and Rachel Whiteread (from left)

of publishing (a terrifying prospect) I suspect a quick trawl through the Books of the Year and the Whitbread and Booker shortlists. If all the gongs end up on the same mantelpieces, what's the point?

The assessors' expenses alone for the Prudential Arts Awards would fund many an arts organisation, so unless Bragg and Co have come up with serious wads of cash to pay the live arts' judges to travel the country, how can they hope to be authoritative? They clearly managed an after-noon at Glyndebourne for Theodora but

hls recording of Die Schöne Mullerin. Bryn Terfel for an Edinburgh recital and a recording of operatic arias, and Harrison Birtwistle for a concert performance

of his 10-year-old The Mask of Orpheus? Brihery and corruption charges have been laid at the door of every hotly con-tested award with the possible exception of the Smarties Prize for Children's Books. In the fevered run-up to the Oscars, Variery virtually doubles in size as vested interests take full-colour double-page spreads



they grovel, before listing every possible cast and crew member. Much to the star/ director's embarrassment, they've even proposed dane-ger man Kenneth Branagh for Best Adapted Screenplay for Hamlet,

every word of which was by Shakespeare.
Even the Olivier awards are susceptihle to jiggery-pokery. Cameron Mackintosh was so piqued when Miss Saigan lost out to Return to the Forbidden Planet, a Fifties movie staged with already existing songs, he persuaded the committee to Estimable choices, but scarcely startling. Rather than wade through an entire year anyone explain the logic behind the classing anyone explain the logic behind the classical property of the Logic b fered since. Musicals have been sliced up but the smash-hit East is not,



differently yet again. Martin Guerre is up for Best New Musical (before or after the rewrite?) hut the completely re-conceived By Jeeves is up for Outstanding

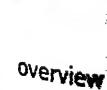
Musical Production. You figure it out. Then there's the fine print. The best in the West (End) or so we're led to believe. Yet only those using Society of London Theatre contracts are eligible. Out go the Lyric Hammersmith and the Almeida, while the Royal Court faces the absurdity of main-stage shows being eligible but not those Irom Upstairs: hence The Beauty Queen of Leenane is up for Best Comedy

Most acting awards are down to cast-Most acting awards are down to casting. Certain roles have honours written in, particularly the "brave" ones, ie playing ugly, stupid or gay: John Mills in Ryan's Daughter, Dustin Hoffman in Rain Man or William Hurt in Kiss of the Spiderwoman. Or what about the guilt prizes? Liz Taylor won not for her indifferent performance in Butterfield 8 but for heing on formance in Butterfield 8 but for being on her real-life deathbed.

Then again, where would we (and Ladbrokes) be without them? Screened ceremonies with the stars - who are they with, what are they wearing and why aren't they there? - offer the almost sensual pleasures of sofa-style schadenfreude that reach their giddy apogee with the Academy Awards. My American friend Matt's appearance of the stuff Matt's annual Oscar parties are the stuff of legend. Yes. I know they go out in the middle of the night over here but try telling him that.

The Oscars, you see, are the ones to which all others aspire. OK, they're a triumph of bad taste, but never mind the quality, feel the coverage. And despite all that sniffy "hrings art down to the level of rank competitiveness", that's what they re about. I should know. A judge at this year's Verity Bargate Awards, I was also the inaugural winner of the Coombehurst Preparatory School Drama Cup for my unparalleled Widow Twankey. Eat your heart out, Diana Rigg.







age, when you of stop-frame

temp was thong Shakespeare, he are rk in the company of great people for throw away. Full we to taking the arrive in the complite to a different place. in the day and in the interview. Robertonia beep love for all things Hamban reigh Like the Dalets or Captain to consumes - Takes, and or the many ding statue. Kan - ere part of coming's collective inidical to bus in these interioring antillable delta seen and Toylor are ademant that there tended representation of the distinctive start ement that character or stop-making then that the makes out of Her Resafing line. Roberts on conceders on though because constraine anna they laught because it s two menings the man ements for post a protate for He fresh at his a .- 1 the discharge it the leading progress have when the is the same response was remaining. is strated tements and and approve in the property of the state of towages the relief and one of the Re-

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A great knight at the opera

The pace of Opera North's new 'Falstaff' never lets up in a witty, frothy and visually arresting production. By Roderic Dunnett

ot on the heels of its revivals of Phyllida Lloyd's pioncering Gloriana and Dehorah Warner's searing Wozzeck. Matthew Warchus's new Falstaff is another landmark production for Opera North, and a sure-fire triumph.

Launched (as the others were) by the company's outgoing musical director Paul Daniel, with designs by Laura Hopkins (fresh from WNO's The Rake's Progress) and perceptively lit by Peter Mumford, the first night performance, as beautifully paced and shaded as it was full of zest and aplomb, put nary a foot wrong. The opening alone set the tone for the evening: Falstaff gradually revealed, back-ofstage behind gauze, scratching nefarious epistles to his twin would-be conquests, over which Daniel unleashes Vcrdi's 10-second opening flurries like a firecracker. Scene 1 never once lost pace from beginning to end.

Fulstaff is not only late, great Verdi, but already in the 1890s anticipates musically the 20th century. You sense Puccini on the way, as surely as you hear retrospectively those whiffs of Berliozian woodwind, the hursts of Gabrielian hrass that peppered Verdi's Requiem, or the sheer range of Shakespearian dramatic invention that the nigh-on 80-year-old composer fished out of the cupboard of his genius.

Arrigo Boito's meticulously well-judged adaptation of The Merry Wives of Windsor, with shrewd extra filching from Shakespeare's Henry plays, was a key to Falstaff's success. A weak translation, like faulty pacing, could easily derail it, or shear it of much of its almost Mozartian finesse. Amanda Holden's rhythmically alert version, with just enough earthiness and licence (there were numerous laughs, none of them cheap), scores time and again; the way Verdi's anapaestic "daile due alle tre" - the time of Palstaff's plotted assignation with Mistress Ford. and a source of exquisite comic wit and mimicry, in the score - is preserved in (the equally plausible) "from Eleven to Twelve" is a posi-tive joy. Just occasionally a dark vowel or heavy accentuation gave pause to the singers; the men's enunciation was impeccable, the women and final chorus, less so.

But it was the pauses proper - where Warchus's direction (compare his The Devil Is an Ass for the RSC) and Daniel at the belm allowed the frivolities to be stayed and a genuine tension to build up in silence - that most did justice to Verdi's comic genius. Above all, it through a hatch and variously sidling observers allowed Andrew Shore's Falstaff, an unusually - was a visual classic.



Grasping the mettle: Andrew Shore as Sir John Falstaff and Frances McCafferty as Mistress Quickly

Photo: Donald Cooper

mature performance of wonderful timing and finesse which towered over this production, to triumph. Shore seems equipped with both natural talent and as fine a memory for precision of tiny detail as Warchus himself, who rarely allows an untidy gesture to creep on-stage. Falstaff's age and indispositions were beautifully pitched and observed; the Malvolian revelation of the vain becapped dandy was as hilarious as Verdi's nostalgic aria recording Falstaff's faded boyhood memories was Schmerz-laden. The piazzale, or street scene outside the Garter Inn

arguably the finest of Hopkins' beautiful, indeed almost beatific, settings (as much Mantua as Windsor), with its frothing jug thrust

There were other performances to savour. The hrilliantly tricky nine-part male-female ensembles that terminate Act 1 were as well managed as the cluttered forest scene (ingeniously revealed by swung set) was incongruously clumsy. Robert Hayward imbued Ford with a striking vocal power and believable jealousy, thinning only near the end. Paul Wade and John Hall carried off Bardolph and Pistol like a pair of old pros. Of the women, chief honours to mezzo Frances McCafferty, a Mistress Quickly panting almost as much as the sweating Falstaff himself. (Sbore's line about her being his "Mercury" was one of the few he

Belaboured by less sure diction, only the occasional aria from Rita Cullis and Yvonne

Howard as Falstaff's intended targets (their garish Van Eyck-hued attire - ubiquitous even in nocturnal snow-landscape - seeming better suited to Chahrier's L'Etoile) managed to cut much ice. The love duets were charmingly carried off by Margaret Richardson and Paul Nilon - no great shakes as actors, but Nilon adding e marked pathos, likewise captured by Stephen Briggs's withily clad, appealingly sung Dr Caius.

The orchestra proved heroic, with oboe obbligato, off-stage brass and much of the upper string playing worth singling out.

Further performances: tonight, Mon. Wed, then 29 and 31 Jan at Leeds Grand Theatre (0113-245 9351), then on tour to Norwich. Sunderland Nottingham and Manchester

At home in mother Russia

An elegant tale of playing Chekhov to the natives. By David Benedict

ou're a leading RSC going on to American TV to actress switching between defend her husband over a The Learned Ladies and Webster's blood-curdling Jacobean tragedy The White Devil. What do you do on your nights off? Nip down the road and perform your own one-woman show, of course.

Caroline Blakiston is not trayal of Charlotta Ivanova in another climate and culture is The Cherry Orchard involved her juggling halls in the air. Dropping one during a performance would probably necessitate an ad-lib. Not so easy when the performances were in Russian. In 1990. Blakiston made history as the first British actor to perform Chekhov in Russia in Russian, and Black Bread and Cucumber is the story of her experience.

Lynn Redgrave recently regaled theatre-goers with her story of her life in Shakespeare for My Therapist, sorry, Father, an evening which split audiences into those who lapped up her soul-haring and those who thought they might dic of toe-curling emharrassment. I'm afraid I was in the latter group. Translating artistic and emotional experience into watchahle theatre is a trick all too seldom pulled off.

On the face of it, the pains and pleasures of performing Chekhov in the town where he was born, in the red, white and gold theatre where he spent his youtb, looks like a masterclass in actory selfindulgence, Blakiston, however, lends an admirable astringency to both the telling and the tale.

There's a marvellously simple take-it-or-leave-it quality about her performance In rep at the Jermyn Street reminded of Hillary Clinton Booking: 0171-287 2875

high comedy in Molière's charge of womanising. "It's a private matter," she declared. 'If you don't like it, you don't have to vote for him." Shocking and strikingly successful. There's nothing shocking in Blakiston's elegant account, hut her eye for detail and her Caroline Blakiston is not skill in conjuring the mood and just juggling dates. Her por- atmosphere of working in wonderfully evocative.

She works as a miniaturist,

holding the audience in the palm of her hand, wittily sketching in rehearsal clashes or her horror at being accompanied everywhere at all times, dovetailing thoughts and impressions of the play and the people she met with near observations about the culture and politics. She was, after all, the first foreigner to step on that stage in over one hundred years in a country she describes as undergoing "a nervous breakdown". One of the actors tells her she comes from a country that values culture, whereas Russia is a nation full of people only interested in money and vodka. England, she retorts, "is full of scornful, insular arscholes with no interest in anything except money and scandal".

Just hefore her final performance, the actor playing Simeon Pishchik died, Her description of the funeral is infinitely touching. Amongst a company that bad worked together for years she felt, she says, "completely at home". This isn't gush. At one point she told herself, "Don't let me go back to England and generalise the Russians." She needn't worry

which draws you in. I was Theatre, London SWI.

Beware of pandas running amok...

...as wild animals give young conductor a rough ride at LSO debut. By Annette Morreau

he naffly titled BT Celebration Series masks perhaps the most enlightened sponsorship scheme worldwide in orchestral music. Now in its third year, it's a collaborative venture with the Association of British Orchestras - the orchestras' "talking shop" - whereby a new orchestral commission is not only granted to a grateful composer but receives an astonishingly large number of repeat performances from orchestras throughout the nation. It would appear to be the height of orchestral profligacy - with all those rebearsals to pay for - that a single orchestra is not chosen to perform the work up and down the land.

That would be to defeat an important principle: new work needs to feel "owned" and projected as such. So, between now and the end of June, no fewer than seven orchestras - the CBSO, Hallé, Ulster, Smith Square, Royal Philharmonic and City of London Sinfonia - will be performing The Creatures Indoors in a place

near you, all thanks to the profits of BT. This year's commission, unlike the two in previous years (from James MacMillan and Richard Rodney Bennett), is a collaboration. The English poet Jo Shapcott and the American composer Stephen Montague were given instructions to write a piece attractive to both children and adults. Echoing the sentiments of Colette in Ravel's L'Enfant et les Sortileges, Shapcott has written a series of completely enchanting poems that creepily emphasise the surreal dangers of "creatures indoors"; especially when they happen to be rattlesnakes, vultures, sharks

Northern Sinfonia, Orchestra of St John's bottles, blackflies, horseflies - that link the rattlesnake and huzz like flies; hidden animal portraits. A largely non-singing narrator tells the tale.

> The London Symphony Orchestra with Benjamin Luxon gave The Creatures Indoors lift-off on Thursday at the Barbican under the somewhat hapless hands of the Italian conductor, Tommaso Placidi, who was making his LSO debut as winner of the 1996 Donatella Flick Conducting Competition.

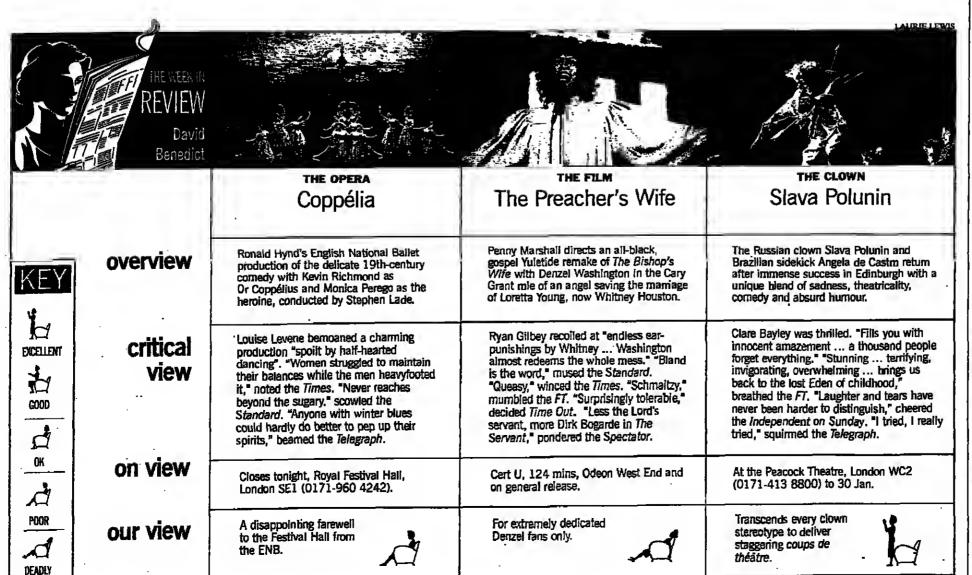
"Give me bamboo shoots. My panda's run amok. He's tearing up my hedroom; the family's panic-struck," seemed to make little sense to him, but no doubt this was fierce debut material. Luxon, in splendid avuncular form, was obliged to work hard to project Shapcott's words, or penguins. The 13 sections include system. But the audience was warmly "fly" interludes - for houseflies. hinenot helped by a particularly ropy sound

musical boxes added an enchanting effect to "Panda Power". Montague uses most of the "special effects" available to a large orchestra with big dollops of flexitones, tam-tam, tremolos and string harmonic glissandi. The music is straightforward and approachable but adds nothing to Bartok or HK Gruber in similar territory. Placidi, likewise, added nothing to per-

formances of Strauss's Til Eulenspiegel and Stravinsky's Firebird suite. But then, what new tricks are available to an inexperienced conductor with a world-class orchestra? His Puccinian approach to Stravinsky seemed ill-advised, his grand, flailing gestures mucking up any rhythmic clarity. Keeping out of the way seemed the best approach in Mozart's Oboe Concerto, given a fresh, unshowy performance by the LSO's principal oboe, Roy Carter. Hard to handle: Tammaso Placidi conducts



Photo: Keith Saunders





Enthusiasts now think that even Disneyland is worth preserving

Present tensions in a perfect past

Heritage is now a matter of life and death. Patrick Wright reports on the future of cultural conservation

The Heritage Crusade and the Spoils of History by David Lowenthal, Viking, £25

he tweed jacket can still be seen. symbolically draped around the bicycling figure of Dan Cruik-shank, Georgian hero of BBC2's One Foot in the Past. But the transformations of the last 20 years are no less startling for that. "Heritage" was once a startling for that, "heritage in their own society alone, but such confinement is not for Lowenthal. An American, he travels far and wide in search of heritage in their own society alone, but such confinement is not for Lowenthal. An American, he travels far and wide in search of heritage in their own society alone, but such confinement is not for Lowenthal. An American, he travels far and wide in search of heritage flora and fauna. He then disappears into his study in Harrow to embark on the arduous startling for that, "heritage" was once a startling for the startli defensive impulse that cherished its search for a unifying pattern in the defensive impulse that cherished its objects against modernisation. Now it is a development strategy, even an engine of regeneration. Formerly the preserve of Lowenthal must feel bopelessly overacademics and hobbyists, it is now an industry aligned with tourism and described as a fit replacement for shipbuilding and mining. It may only have been to avoid having a French-sounding were a computer, he'd have signs flasb-Ministry of Culture that we now have a National Heritage department, but the name confirms how far this theme has been marched from the cultural margins.

David Lowenthal has had an eye on these developments for some time now. When he started his survey he was a distinguished Professor of Geography. Now he is the freeranging master of Heritage Studies, a hybrid discipline, which mostly seems to consist of a bit of history hedged in by practical modules on tourism, marketing and business planning. But Lowenthal has a wider vision. He can be seen at international conferences, still alert and on his feet when everyone else has glazed over - defeated by the endless mission statements that delegates at these events feel obliged to recite, and reduced to idly reckoning up their expenses.

Others may try to come to terms with whelmed. As examples pile up, every possible conclusion seems to be overtaken by its contrary. Repeatedly, the idea of "her-itage" threatens to explode. If Lowenthal ing saying more megabytes required.

But he has managed to coax an extraordinary inventory of heritage pathology into a coherent, lucid argument. His case is that since 1980 or so, heritage has become a global phenomenon. It may remain predominantly western, but everywhere, the same factors provoke it – the pace of change, massive

igration, centralisation, increased longevity. Lowenthal begins by differentiating heritage material from disciplined history. Historians like J H Plumb have argued that true historical knowledge is superior and should be used to dissolve heritage-like fantasies about the past believed by the untutored masses. Others, like Raphael Samuel, have argued the reverse; that historians should be prepared to learn from popular heritage enthusiasts.

Lowenthal is inclined to turn his back on all this. He declares that heritage is not Such is its romantic appeal the same as history and, moreover, that it shouldn't even try to be. The two serve quite different needs: "I acquit heritage of historian's charges not because heritage is guiltless of deforming history, but because its function is to do just that". chism rather than fact, heritage invents memories and excludes inconvenient realities. It creates a "secret identity' ("us") and promotes false knowledge the only kind, so Lowenthal asserts, that can serve as "a gauge of exclusion" for "them". This is murky stuff, and yet Lowenthal suggests it could hardly be any other way. "Forgetting what displeases us is not only normal but necessary" and "to sanitise a seamy past may aid under-standing more than laying it bare".

History may still be written by the victors, but heritage seems to belong to the victims. Centralised conceptions of heritage were created as part of the nationalism of 19th century Europe, and a stately idea of heritage is still invoked as the stuff of "national consensus". But a different assertion of heritage has emerged - one in which "minority virtue" is lined up against mainstream ideas nf progress. In this rootsy variation, heritage is the rallying cry of those who feel dismay have discredited the racial science of

Such is its romantic appeal, that comfortable members of the majority culture are inclined to crave the "local loyalty and ethnic empathy" of victimhood. To be merely American, French, or English is lo be deprived. Lowenthal quotes a Parisian teacher who, because she can't Indian - regretting the English colonists who wrecked the Indian economy, but then turning to hlame the French, who "really did us in". "We have all hecome Indians", says Lowenthal drily - without expressing too much sympathy for the Cherokee sweat-lodge therapist who had to lower the temperature of her facility in Britain, despite "a lot of soul-search-

ing about changing the tradition". This conversion of aboriginal culture into heritage is a decidedly mixed blessing. It is inclined to freeze these cultures. conserving the "primitive" qualities that were previously viewed with contempt. Yet Lowenthal is most concerned about the nativist ideas that are sustained under the name of heritage. Over the same years that apartheid has been proscribed and social distinctions based on race weakened, Lowenthal detects an intensification

eugenies, but in many expressions Her-itage seems to he more and more bio-people can claim multiple legacies. itage seems to he more and more biologically fixed, and therefore less amenable to social and cultural reform.

The determinism once associated with the blood may now be expressed in terms of genes, but the potentially toxic preoccu-pation with purity remains. Minority heritage may be closely connected with the idea racism is the basis of nationality", or of Lord Denning, who censured Leon Brittan (born and bred in Britain of Lithuanian parentage), as a "German Jew" who would apparently surrender British sovereignty. The pattern even extends into the vegetable domain. Lowenthal finds ecofascists preaching the creed of "native good, alien bad" and even English Heritage boasting of the native grass seeds with which it is "pro-

tecting uncient genetic lineage." Lowenthal recognises conservation and questions of identity as legitimate global issues. A self-described "heritage activist", he recognises that the idea is inclined to fuel conflicts and rivalry. Sarajevo's library and the ancient bridge at Mostar were targeted as heritage sites, and the defence of monuments is also too often wrapped up in "bellieose xenophnbia". If there is hope for the future, it lies partly in a ris-ing sense of global heritage, albeit one born of European conquest. And also in the fact that, nnce the thoroughbred fan-

This is a revealing and useful book, especially valuable for its international reach. And yet the rather helpless sense of quandary on which it closes may partly be a product of the global perspective that prevents Lowenthal from really digging in any-where. Touch the ground for a little longer of innate traits. But so is the Englishness of at any place where beritage is at issue, and Enoch Powell, who remarked in 1995 that other dimensions open up, connected not politics. It is also likely that the vexed relationship between heritage and "true" historical knowledge will survive the curt dis-missal at the end. Lowenthal is overcrideal of the "heritage-mongers" (such as curators) who try to reconcile their marketing strategies with a commitment to truth, or to use history to cleanse their monuments of xenophobia. It is extreme to dismiss the very attempt as "hugely counterproductive", and only likely to bring the idea of science, history and also heritage into disrepute.

Having surveyed the morbid possibilities of heritage, Lowenthal may have discovered a sympathy with the idea of turning it into such a cliche that it will never stir deep passions again. But even that is unlikely. The current issue of Harpers has excerpts from a web site dedicated to overthrowing Disney president Paul Pressler. He is accused of turning the theme park's Penny Arcade into a stuffed animal shop, and generally destroying "Disneyland as we know it".

Journals of the plague years

Diarmaid MacCulloch on the epidemic that shocked a continent

The Great Pox: the French disease in Renaissance Europe by Jon Arrizabalaga, John Henderson and Roger French, Yale £25

taly had a had year in 1495. military and political miseries which over a century extinguished rifying disease also arrived. Apparently as fatal as plague, unlike the plague it played with its victims for months or years, destroying their looks, their flesh and sometimes their minds, producing sores and scabs which stank and made the sufferers loathsome.

The disease rapidly set off on its travels, reaching as far as Aberdeen by spring 1497, a quincentenary which the Granite City is unlikely to commemorate this year. Naturally the Italians called the new disease the French pox, a name which caught all Europe's imagination, much to French annovance. France's attempt to re-label the pox as the Neapolitan disease was not an especially successful piece of spin-doctoring.

We now call this pox syphilis. The three co-authors of this book deliberately avoid talking about syphilis, which 20th-century doctors know, diagnose and have the means of curing. They do discuss the poem by a 16th-century doctor whose title gave syphilis its mod-

theme. What modern doctor would analyse an unknown disease by writing Latin verse about it addressed to the muse of astronomy? Yet no-one in the 16th century made fun of Girolamo Fraeastoro when he did just that, and indeed what he said about the French Disease was marginally mnre sensible than most other contemporary medical opinion. So do not look to this book for

evidemiological analysis, or answers to the vexed question of where syphilis came from: ancient European spirochete with a sudden wanderlust, or novel import from America, the New World's revenge on the Old for Culumhus's invasion? The book's title is over-comprehensive; apart from one brief German excursion, Italy is its focus.

We read about Renaissance scholars trying to use all their cultural resources to make sense of a baffling and terrifying disease. We are shown just how radically different from our own culture was an age which seriously debated whether the French pox could exist at all, since apparently it lacked a proper Laun or Greek name.

A killer plague which merely had an Italian nickname lacked

the ancient world, then there was no basis on which to start working out ted with classical wisdom, it took a leap of the imagination to suppose that reality could extend past the knowledge of a dead philosopher.

Meanwhile, the disease went on maining, killing and terrifying, Action had to follow straight away, if Italy was not to become a chaos of stinking, panie-stricken and contagious beggars. The book changes gear in its centre, becoming a detailed examination of the new medical institutions set up in Italy to deal with the pox. The flagship among these purposebuilt hospitals was an impressive foundation in Rome: this has left a rich archive, enabling us to count the very rags elothing the wretches who

turned up for treatment. The hospitals were called Incurabili, a happily inaccurate name, since the death rate in them was surprisingly low. One treatment which seems to have worked was to use a wood called guaiacum, both fir drinking and for battling skin problems. The wood had been discovered in America, so h had to be the outsiders who hrought us the imported, and was reassuringly expensive. Charitable ladies held fund-raising drives ("World Pox Haitians, homosexuals or heroin

many doctors resented gualacium. How inconsiderate and indecorous for an unprecedented disease to

have an unprecedented cure! The authors engagingly admit that to discuss Renaissance doctors discussing the French pox is to describe "nonsense". The least barmy medical advice, from one Pere Pintor, was to run away from an outbreak. Those poor humanist intellectuals really didn't have a clue about the pox - nor did any-one until 1909, when syphilis became the first major disease to be conquered by a targetted drug. We are left to make the compari-son with Aids, which also leapt class and geographic barriers before anyone noticed.

Like Aids, the pox developed its own literature, because it became the guest of the powerful and the articulate - in those days that meant noblemen and clergymen. The pox also sparked blind prejudice. We are at our most selfrevealing when we try to give catastrophe a tidy space in nur world. We define who we are by defining carastrophe. Will the tabloid journalists who hlamed Aids on whose title gave syphilis its modern name, because the very fact of this poem is part of the book's respectability. If it could not be described by a word recognisable in work of the *Incumbili* generally. Still.

Day"?) to pay for it, and for the work of the *Incumbili* generally. Still.

Fat all attraction

Ruth Picardie has her cake and eats it

Eat Fat by Richard Klein, Picador, £15.99

these days. Instead of calorie counting, everyone is "eating for health": food combining, the anti-candida system, allergy eradication attempts. Last week, I met a German doctor who advised me to begin a "low acid" eating pro-gramme, avoiding rhubarb, wild cherries, gooseberries, yoghurt, sauerkraut, vinegar, vitamin C, margarine and meat. A few days later, a nutrionist urged me to give up wheat, oats, rye, harley, dairy products, sugar, salt, tea, coffce, chocolate and, of course, alcohol.

The new ideology - emphasising health, not weight loss - may be different from the nld, but the advice is the same: contradictory, everchanging and impossibly austere. A few hours after I met the nutrionist. I ate four slices of walnut cake.

The other growth area is the antidiet book, a genre pioneered by Susie Orbach in the 1970s with Fat Is A Feminist Issue. Eut Fat by Richard Klein covers much of the same ground: the historical rarity of the emaciated ideal; the greed of the medical-health-beauty industry; the damage that dieting can do to the body; and the scary new gen-

in part, its time. Klein, a professor Ask a Frenchman."

iet books are terribly passé of French at Cornell University who once rode in a car with Roland Barthes, declares Eat Fat to be a "postmodern" diet book, lo on angry sexual politics, hi on fun. He aims to charm, not shock, the reader into giving up diets. "This book is designed to be thrown away," he writes. "Once you have consumed it, the text should vanish, and remain a delicious memory, like the faint recurrence of the feeling of well-being that accompanies the disappearance into your mouth of a chocolate truffle."

Thus Klein (who weighs 200lb) breaks off from expressing rage at the word obesity to write about his fat mom and fat sister: "They've both been dieting for decades...and have been getting fatter and fatter." He explores Fat Admiring sexual subcultures. from the endlessly frustrated Chubby Chasers ("They are looking for fat women [like glamour model Teighlor, who once weighed 719th! with self-esteem. who love themselves fat") to the happier gay world of Flabio and Bulk Male. Later, he stops exploring the relationship between power and fat ("It's not money the rich are afraid to spend, but ealories, which eration of "anti-obesity" drugs.

What is new about this book is.

are wnrth more than money") to ask: "Why are Americans obese?" are worth more than money") to

anti-diet book but a pro-fat book, and he worships it with the sensuality of the best cookery writers. His love of fat is comprehensive, from the pleasure of plump olives to the sweet power of Jessye Norman, from 18th-century fat ("The creamy skin of those large dollops of pink women," begins his hymn of praise to a Boucher painting) to the ultramodern. "She slips me an extra slice nf toast," he writes of the waitress in his local diner, "heavily buttered. I really don't need it, but...I eat it all, because she loves me. Because with the wind howling and the snow sweeping through barely plowed streets, that fat is a kiss,

Klein's book isn't so much an

between her and me." Klein's really big idea is that diets make you fat: not physiologically, as many nutrionists now believe. but philosophically. The more we diet, the fatter we are getting. Between 1980 and 1991, the proportion of overweight Americans rose from one in four to one in three; when Hillary Clinton installed a healthy, fish-grilling chef at the White House, the president gained weight. The lower in fat they are, the more crisps we eat. Ergo, says Klein, if we stop dieting, we'll get thinner. In which case, I'll have another slice of that cake.

A child's garden of curses

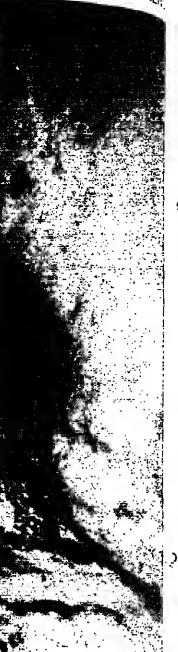
E Jane Dickson applauds a double vision of dark secrets

DEPENDENT LONG WEEKER

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ous cop-outs of a dual perspective or time-slip narrative and the writing in The Memory Game is commendably even, the shared style exact and unshowy. Dramatis personae are quirky without falling into caricature. Alan Martello, an Angry

Young Man turned literary patriarch and father of the murdered girl, blubs and blusters through the narrative like King Lear played by Kingsley Amis. His con-frootation with a feminist critic at the ICA is a set piece worthy of Amis at his early best, but his final breakdown is scary and believable. Separated from the emotionally constipated Claud Mortello, Jane falls for Caspar, a creepy linguistic philospher who has christened his daughter Fanny "to revive the name", but is also

oo the wave-washed shore analogy.

family is her fulcrum and refuge.

ing is properly unguessable.

i Recovered Memory Syndrome.



Husband-and-wife team: Nicci Gerrard and Sean French managed to write a book together without having recourse to Relate

ther more complicated character. The trauma of the present, but memory brings ber to the brink of insanity as speproves a slippery medium. Natalie, cific concerns broaden into abstract events that everyone can live with? enshrined in family lore as the picture of obsession. Can memory ever be more

emotion? Can there be such a thing as a

inoroughness of the research. Descrip-The title refers to Jane's attempt to childhood remembered by Jane as a shared history or does all history come tions have the authority and immediacy some things don't need to be explained' retrieve the past she sbared with Natalie and the Martellos in order to heal the down to a narrative which is more or less of reportage and the Jacobean toils of the convincing? What is the purpose of a plot rise from a hard-edged world of bicyfamily if not to collude in a version of cle locks and council planning permission. waste." In a society increasingly shaped If, in the last analysis, the ends of The Gerrard and French are distinguished Memory Game don't tie up neatly in the nent thought.

attracted to Alex, a pioneer of the con- innocence cut down, emerges as an alto- than an accretion of experience and journalists and their roots show in the manner of Nancy Drew, it is because real life is ragged and unresolved. "I think savs Jane. "Sometimes damage should be left in sealed containers, like nuclear by the politics of disclosure, it is a perti-

Transformed by sunlight on the way to St Ives

Louise Doughty sizes up a diffuse portrait of the artist

The Serpentine Cave by Jill Paton Walsh, Doubleday, £12.99

always visible. In Knowledge of Angels, Jill Paton Walsh wove a seamless dealing: Alice is a lovelorn viola player. who has always put her son and daughcombination of the two and was faced with a mystery, a dilapidated ter first. Towards the end of the novel, one deservedly shortlisted for the Booker. House and a mountain of debt, the trou-Her new book does not manage the mix bled trio begin to excavate Stella's past. quite so well. The themes it explores and the manner by which they are revealed straightforward detective story but true priorities. That is the nature of their are far enough apart for the stitchiog to rapidly turns into something much more show. It is a divergence that proves at diffuse: an exploration of the nature of

incapacitation of Stella, an elderly artist is important to us - and once we have felled by a stroke. When she dies, she decided, what happens to all the other work. Each of the characters represents takes with her the identity of the lover hits of our lives which must take second a point of view, in a way that often interwho fathered her only child. Marian is place? Stella is initially remembered as feres with how the reader might expect primrose, her face jaundiced". Later, the fulfill its primary function.

been suspended on suspicion of insider

once intriguing and frustrating.

The Serpentine Cave opens with the vital questions. How do we decide what

*he difference between the plot of a divorced with two grown-up children of a selfish woman who neglected her child them, naturalistically, to behave. novel and its subject matter is not ber own. Toby works in the City but has for the sake of second-rate art. Marian has duly rehelled and become a chemist ter first. Towards the end of the novel, one think it might be the wrong place to put What follows could have been a children?" Each character discovers their

inheritance from Stella. This process of discovery is intellechuman desires. The book poses some tually interesting but doesn't pull on the heartstrings in the way such a story should. One senses an argument at

The weakness of the characterisation is particularly apparent in the oddly formal dialugue. This clumsiness occasionally extends to the rest of the prose: "When she recovered enough to explain herself, Tohy and Alice received what fragments of this memory she told over for them with considerable interest."

In return, there are some wonderful moments of description and insight. A hospital room is transformed by sunlight which "eclipses...the neon strip lights on the ceiling, overwhelming their chilly accuracy with a rival vision, in which Marian's mother lay under a sheet of pale

setting moves to St Ives, where Marian discovers the history of the artists' colony of which her mother was a part. The tensions between the artists and the local fishing community are evoked with fine detail.

When Marian eventually traces her father he proves to be an odd, sad man, Although he makes only two brief appearances, his character is more convincing and disturbing than some of the larger ones that give the plot its engine. The Serpentine Cave is a bit like a muchloved but dilapidated motor car, providing moments of aesthetic pleasure which don't quite compensate for its inability to



books

othing much flourishes in January save for aconites and book prizes. Amid the literary blooms, it would be easy tu miss the award for a first or second work of history sponsored by Longman and History Today magazine. This week, in the suitably august setting of the Dulwich Picture Gallery, it went to Cam-bridge historian Orlando Figes for his vast but vivid account of the Russian Revolution from 1891 to 1924. A People's Tragedy (Cape).

Figes' scholarly page-turner adds to the growing trend for Big History to mean Big Business. Not long before Christmas, Oxford issued Norman Davies' bulky history of Europe: a widescreen epic encrusted by sparkling cameos and driven by the belief that the lands east of the Elbe merit more of the limelight. It has sold 33,000 copies here and 18,000 in the US - supersonic speed for a £25 hardback.

Prior to Figes and Davies came other bestselling historians who merged narrative zest with analytic depth: Theodore Zeldin and Simon Schama: Felipe Fernandez-Armesto and Eric Hobshawm. After decades of stratospheric High Theory on the one hand and number-crunching "eliometries" on the other, the story returned to history - told not by quaint throwbacks but by the superstars.

For Gordon Marsden, who edits History Today, books such as Figes' overcome the "artificial dichotomy" between hard data and ripping yarns: "It's not a question of either/or. You must have good analysis with your narrative, and vice versa". Yet it can look as if today's historians have seized on the once-taboo pleasures of the tale like hinge drinkers after Prohibition. For Simon Schama, this means pushing factual narrative up to - and through - the gates of fiction.

These new-wave fables of the past match the "postmodern" drift in other arts; all are fuelled by our end-of-era taste for retrospective summings-up. Fernandez-Armesto actually called his bold global history of the past 1000 years Millennium, while Hobsbawm's Age of Extremes taught us that the "short 20th century" clused with the Soviet Union's collapse in 1991.

As the cool but compassionate

tone of A People's Tragedy coofirms, the ideological vacuum of this fin-de-siècle allows historians to look back more in sorrow than in anger. Until very recently, histories of the Revolution solit along classic Cold War lines. On one side stood the defenders (E H Carr. say, or the Trotskyist Isaac Deutscher, for whom Stalin killed a great ideal). On the other, furious antagonists such as Robert Conquest dragged the horror of the Gulag into the light. In a post-Soviet perspective, both camps can sound remarkably alike. Indeed, the same writers often swung from une pole to the other.

Interestingly, Gordon Marsden suggests that the cargo of books now due about the British Empire and its sunset (as Hong Kong reverts to China and India marks its half-century of freedom) may follow the same pattern. The passion of both imperialists and liberators could fade as "younger histurians look on things a bit more dispassionately". So have we reached a final Twilight of the Partisans? Not quite yet, perhaps. Also on the prize shortlist was Daniel Goldhagen's Hitler's Willing Executioners: a young scholar's searing, bitter argument that ordinary Germans (and not just hardcore Nazis) knew the worst and went along with it. Some wounds run so deep that not even a millennium will soothe them.

Boyd Tonkin

Make mine a superglue, brake fluid and insecticide

Harry Ritchie is shaken but not stirred by a lethal Russian cocktail

Moscow Stations by Venedikt Yerofeev, translated by Stephen Mulrine, Faber, £8.99

Bequila slammers? Why not try one of the excitiog cocktails detailed in Sadko shampoo, superglue, anti-dan-Venedikt Yerofeev's novel Moscow Stations. The Spirit of Geoeva, for instance: take 200 grammes Zhiguli beer and add 150 grammes spirit varnish and 50 grammes each of White Lilac toilet water and sock deodoriser. For the more adventurous drinker, Yerofeev recommends the

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ored of banana daquiris? Tired of guaranteed hrain-blaster known as Dog's druff solution, brake fluid and insecticide.

The recipes come from one of the many digressions in this short novel about the Russian narrator's alcohol-fuelled traio journey from Moscow to see his son and lover in the town of Petrushki. At least, that's what is supposed to be bappening. but the narrator's account is less thao clear. No surprise given that, by the time he boards his traio at eight in the morning, he is struggling to cope with a griev- a ticket. ous hangover from a week-long bender. has just been turfed out of the station buffet after requesting a revitalising 800-

iskaya and a bottle of fortified rosé. Having overcome the melodramatic

attack of nausea provoked by the first sips from his essential supplies, the narrator settles down to endure the ride. Though he is out of his box, there is no danger that his fellow passengers will scorn him, for they are all out of their boxes as well, including the ticket inspector who has devised an ingenious system of fines - passengers have to pay him a gramme of vodka for every ticketless kilometre. It's not a short trip and nobody seems to have

The novel itself staggers along as the narrator gives us the benefit of bis experience of life on the rocks. He provides a gramme shot of breakfast sherry, and is brief, crazed overview of a alcohol depenpreparing to tuck into his essential sup- dency in the lives of great writers, a daft plies for the two hour journey - two bot- survey of the world (Siberia is populated uous grasp on reality, leaving him The slang grates occasionally (faces are tles of Kuban vodka, half a litre of Rossi- by "negroes", the streets of Paris are lined wrestling with those key existential ques- never faces but "coupons", "fizzogs" and Irvine Welsh.

by brothels and clap clinics), and another top tip, on how to avoid hangovers - drink what you had the night before until you have drunk the same amount and then drink another 250 grammes of the stuff.

Meanwhile, back at the storyline, things are getting dazed and confused. There is a drinks party of sorts wherein the narrator and other passengers resolve to tell each other stories, just like characters in a novel by Turgenev, but that quickly peters out. There's also an account of the narrator's attempt to engineer a revolution in Petrushki, but Norway refused to reply to his declaration of war and the only decrees passed by his committee concerned local pub opening hours (to be moved back to a more convenient 5am). But all too soon the narrator loses his ten-

tions familiar to anyone who has stumbled through the night, a congealed fish supper in one hand, a warm can of Tennents Extra in the other: Where am 1? What am

I doing here? How do I get home? Tragically, this is an autobiographical novel, which explains why this is a posthumous translation. After a life spent drinking improbable amounts and kinds of alcohol, and getting the sack from a series of menial jobs (no mean feat in the former Soviet Union), Yerofeev died six years ago, just when Moscow Stations was beginning to emerge from its sorry plight as a samizdat work that lacked the kudos of political oppression. Yerofeev's translator, Stepheo Multioe, is to be congratulated for latching on to this novel and hringing it new life in an English version.

"ugly mugs"), but by and large he has done a good job.

What he can't do, however, is conceal the flaws of the original. Faher's bumf claims that Moscow Stations is "an absolute classic of Russian literature". Had I stopped reading the novel after the first 10 pages, I would have agreed, for the opening sequence describing the narrator's stumble to his train is a work of comic geoius. But, appropriately enough, after the riotously funny start, the book wanders about, becomes befuddled and, especially during its more fantastic flights of fancy, gets irritating and boring. The kind of people who go to the ICA will clasp their hands in horror at this judgment, hut for all his darkly farcical moments, Yerofeev has been easily surpassed in dark bedrugged comedy by

City of dreadful night

Elizabeth Young visits the London underground

Lights Out for the Territory by Iain Sinclair, Granta Books, £12.99

ain Sinclair's London use storm, mutated into a literary territory as recognisable as "Greeneland".

Open this book at random, and sludge of politicians whirl forever, each illuminating the others' dreams. there it is: "There is a decayed Uni-larian chapel at 49, Ball's Pond Road...". All such mythical landscapes are the product of obsesssion: their territory is refracted and hallucinatory. In Sinclair's case, is he just a hit player in the Cockney clichés of the Kray brothers melodrama? Or have the twin hounds of Vallance Road finally been brought a standard-bearer for alternative Vallance Road finally been brought to heel as permanent exhibits in the major arcana of the Sinclair epic?

It was Iain Sinclair in his awesome 1993 essay "The Look" who divined the toppling of an empire from Tony Lamhrianou's description of spotting Ron Kray without a tie. "This was a signal" wrote Sinclair, "a flag of surrender to the inevitable". The bell was tolling for that Sixties triad: "Villainy, business, image." If Sinclair can read all that into one open-necked shirt, imagine what he can do for the rest of London.

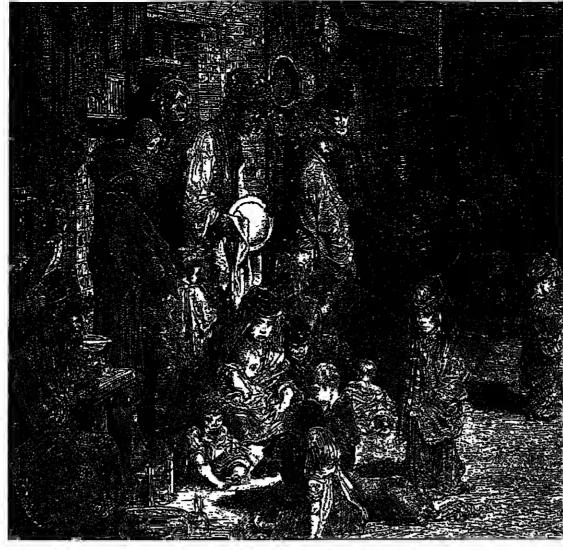
These nine prose pieces - in which Sinclair, like Huck Finn, "lights out" for his Territory - form a powerful distillation of all that is best, most potent and accessible in Sinclair's work. Here is a mind at the height of its powers, who can quote Homer or Carl Hiaasen with equal facility. He sees the living streets of view of time and history. This "non-

ain Sinclair's London has slowly mutated into a literary territory Sykes and Beckett's Murphy, Blake,

novel, Radon Daughters, Sinclair has been dragged from small-press obscurity and hailed as one of the few major talents of bis generation. His long, visionary apprenticeship in the shadows and his intellectual writing and artistic dissidence.

Sinclair's view of London may be contagious, but it testifies to an idiosyncratic struggle with literary beritage and tradition. He excised sentimentality from the Beat sensibility, returned Allen Ginsberg's inspiration to its origins in Blake's London and created a parallel, mythopoeiac universe of his own.

It is ironic that Sinclair's earlier work - prose poems such as "Bladud", "Suicide Bridge" and "Lud Heat", the in utero version of Peter Ackroyd's novel Hawksmoor was considered too obscure for easy publication while his later, far more difficult novels met with widespread praise. The early work's combination of documentary reportage and autobiographical intersections allowed Sinclair to present his multi-faceted



Whitechapel, 1870 (Gustave Dore): part of lain Sinclair's personal psychogeography

fiction" is such a mythical concoction in itself that the novels could only float further out into a trance state of linguistic hypnosis.

Sinclair's preoccupations remain consistent - an ur-London, his personal psychogeography, the Whitechapel murders of 1888; churches, cemeteries, graffiti, texts. His chance configurations allow an endless present, mingling fact and fic-tion, to bleed back through the city's ruins. Tales of his all-too-real co-conspirators (deranged book-dealers and maddened poets) seep into his fic-tions, while his own fictional creations

stalk his non-fiction essays.

Among these essays, some including the memorable account of
Ronnie Kray's funeral, a guided
tour of Rachel Whiteread's "House" and a dismemberment of PD James' Cadaver Club - were originally commissioned as shorter pieces. Others are constructed around Sinclair's lengthy walks with long-suffering photographer Marc Atkins. "Drift-

ing purposefully", they noted and decoded a fusillade of fragments. Blake, Dickens and T S Eliot

bover purposefully in the hinterlands. Otherwise the view is a charged smog of trace memories, psychic voodoo, urban paranoia and filmic metaphor. Sinclair weaves a bomespun, neo-occult web from a hoard including Dr John Dee, the Rosicrucians, Grail legends, the Invisible College, ley-lines, maps and conspiracies—an entire car-boot sale of alchemy and hermeticism. These forces, whether focused on pit-bull terriers or Jeffrey Archer's residence at Alembic House, spark residence at Alembic House, spark spidery trail of correspondences that thread through history.

There is nothing faddishly New Age about Sinclair. His mood is mordant, dark, ironic. The occult provides structures which - as with the Tarot in Eliot's "The Waste Land" - stretch like Jacob's ladder, ing Cross". Sinclair aligns himself exposed by a fine intelligence.

with an angelic crew of London lowlife chroniclers, including Alexander Baron, Bernard Kops, Patrick Hamilton and Arthur Macben. He provides notable pen-portraits of those he has known, such as the art guerrilla Stuart Home, the late Robin Cook (who wrote as Derek

Raymond), and poet Aidan Dunn. The cornersiones of Sinclair's gnomic vision appear to be, first, his self-definition as "someone congenitally incapable of accepting the notion of 'accident'". Second, he is "cursed with the obsession [with] books as icons, books as a form of race memory. Last, he believes that the city can divulge an encoded, suhterranean text. Signs, however they appear, can be read.

So, just as Sinclair describes the pit-bull thrown from a balcony and granted a "brief, privileged view of Hackney", his readers are granted their own brief, privileged view of a "pitched between Heaven and Char-festering London, its pathologies

The sad last days of Fortress Fidel

Douglas Kennedy goes native with our man in Havana

The Land of Miracles: a journey through modern Cuba by Stephen Smith, Little, Brown, £17.99

in my travelling life took place at José Marti Airport in Havana. Having been commissioned by a magazine to write an essay on the Cuban capital, and after daily phone calls to the Cuban embassy in London, demanding to know when they might issue me with a journalist's visa, I finally decided to enter the country on a tourist card.

As it turned out, getting into Cuba as a turista was a breeze. Leaving was another matter. On the day of my departure, my wife called to issued my journalist's visa and were wondering about my whereabours. Stephen Smith discovered during his cal hreakdown - yet which, in the

ne of the more nervy moments Grim visions danced through my head of arrest for illegal entry as I boarded the Cubana flight back to London – and, sure enough, when I handed over my papers to the immigration inspector at the airport, be tapped my particulars into his ancient Russian computer and then vanished with my passport. When he returned. I was certain he would be accompanied by the secret police. Instead, he was alone. "Is there a problem?", I asked. "No problem", he said. "Coffee break."

Like so many totalitarian nations,

foray into the Land of Fidel. But midsl of a crippling economic Smith (a journalist with Channel Four News) is no P J O'Rourke. turning a jaundiced eye on the absurdities of a failed Marxist-

He is the best sort of reporter: detached, ironic, yet well versed on the terrain be's exploring. But he also has an annoying tendency to turn himself into the centrepiece of his narrative, appearing as a charm-ingly hefuddled Englishman abroad.

Thankfully, these self-indulgent interludes are brief. The Land of Mirsay that the embassy had finally Cuba specialises in its own brand of acles is a compelling portrait of a down and his narrative works best bureaucratic farce - something that society on the verge of an ideologi-

embargo, still attempts to stagger through the day. More tellingly, it is a tale of an outsider trying to carve a life for himself in a deeply alien, curiously intoxicating culture.

Rather than peering down on "the natives" from the air-conditioned eyrie of a five-star hotel, Smith plunged into the grubby main-stream of Cuban life. Finding a ronm in an apartment building that once housed Fidel Castro, he expewhen detailing the day-to-day privations of Cuhan existence. He's let Cuha do the talking.

especially adept at conveying the manic rhythms of Havana's decrepit streets, and is a sympathetic chronicler of Cuhan lives: educated women pushed into prostitution out of desperation; ageing tango dancers swirling across the floor of a rickety apartment.

Over all hangs the inherent melancholy of a society that knows it is a terminal case, but still tries to maintain its self-respect. Full marks to Smith for so cannily conveying the riences urban dwelling in a city sad last days of Fortress Fidel. In his whose infrastructure is breaking next book he should trust his powers of observation, shove his own persona deep into the backfield and

Tales from the Land of Zanj

William Dalrymple investigates the spice trade

Empires of the Monsoon by Richard Hall, HarperCollins, £20

Portuguese spies set off on the caravan route from Alexandria across the deserts of the Wadi Natrun to Cairo, then one of the two richest cities of the Islamic world. Disguised as Arab merchants dealing in jars of Neapolitan honey, the two agents travelled to Aden at the mouth of the Red Sea. There they separated, one heading to the port of Zaila on the African mainland, the other taking advantage of the winds of the southwest monsoon to eatch a dhow to the Malahar spice coast of India. The two spies would never see each other again, and neither would ever return home. One died in mysterious circumstances; the other, searching for the legendary empire of Prester John, broke through as far as Ethiopia, only to find himself forbidden ever to leave.

Their mission was, however, a notable success in one important respect. The senior spy, Pèro de Covilhao, was able to pass on to two Portuguese Jews the map he made of the Indian Ocean. This map got back to Lisbon and proved that if a Portuguese galleon were able to round the Cape, sail half way up the east coast of Africa, then head north east, nothing would stand in the way of a fair sailing to the riches of the spice coast of India.

As a direct result of de Covilhao's espionage, on 18 May 1498 Vasco da Gama succeeded in reaching the Malabar Coast at the end of what Ricbard Hall calls "the longest sea voyage in history". It was an epic achievement. The first, Atlantic stretch of the journey alone involved being out of sight of land for three times as long as Columbus had been on his crossing to the New World. Economically, the pioneering of the trade route was an extraordinary breakthrough: what was bought in Calicut for a ducat could be sold in Lisbon for a hundred ducats. As one worried Venetian realised, "if these voyages should continue, and they seem easy to accomplish, the King of Portugal can call

himself the King of Money". The Venetian was right to be worried. The creation of the Portuguese empire and re-routing of the spice trade resulted in the impoverishment of its ancient masters: the Middle Eastern caravan cities and, above all, the western power that formed the trade's final terminus -

the Republic of Venice. The Portuguese had not come merely to trade. They came to conquer, to attempt to destroy Islam and to con-

n the autumn of 1487, two vert the peoples of the Indian Ocean to what they regarded as the one true faith. On his first voyage, Vasco da Gama let loose his guns on the African port-city of Mozambique and the Indian port of Calicut. On his second he indulged in an orgy of sadistic violence, bomharding towns, torturing prisoners, and massacring

women and children. The peoples of the Indian
Ocean had no defence against European cannon, and no warships to match the Portuguese caravels. Even when the Ottoman Turks transported wood from the Balkans to the mouth of Red Sea and put together a special fleet to take on the newcomers, the Ottoman ships proved defenceless against Portuguese broad-sides. In less than a decade the Portuguese had completely destroyed a freetrade network that had existed with very little vio-

lence for thousands of years.

Empires of the Monsoon is a panoramic study of the history of the Indian Ocean, and the destruction of its traditional trade by colonial Europe. The narrative ranges from the Mediter-ranean to the Pacific, from Northern Italy to Eastern China, and stretches from the emergence of Islam to the present day. Its major achievement is to weave into a coherent whole the histories of a kaleidoscope of civilisations and peoples.

Richard Hall is a journalist by training, not an acade-mic, and his book does not aim at any particular profundity of analysis; its principal object is to interest and entertain. Rarely, however, has the dry dust of economic history been brought more vividly to life; and there can be very few studies of trade routes to touch it for narrative pace or for epic sweep.

Empires of the Monsoon reads like some mediaeval Book of Wonders, rich with exotic improbabilities. We learn of the African warriors of the Land of Zanj wbo collected the testicles of passing merchants: the solidified fluids of a sperm whale's stom-ach, which the Chinese valued as an aphrodistac; of the 11.000 eunuchs of Abbasid Baghdad; and the Madagascan flightless hird which stood ten feet high and laid eggs more than a foot long.

It is all gripping stuff. dizzily amhitious in its scope and full of some of the oddest facts imaginable. As an icy January gives way to a grim, grey English Fehruary, this is just the book to curl up with and dream about the spice shores of Malabar.

Paperbacks -

By Christopher Hirst, Lucasta Miller and Boyd Tonkin

Cross Channel by Julian Barnes (Picador, £5.99) "Barnes est déliciera" simpers the shout-line from a Paris magazine about these 10 tales of Franco-Saxon attitudes. Well, Barnes's nicely-turned anecdotes of Brits in France melt in the mouth hut seldom feed the soul. His penchant for bookish whimsy (a fatal attraction since Flaubert's Parrot) leads to such wan gags as the codger uncle mistaken for an avaiu-garde artist because he sells real beeswax polish: "Cire realiste". At times, we're not far from Peter Mayle with a postgrad degree. On the other mahi, the tender portrait of postwar grief in "Evermore" escapes the rather twee formula to stand on its own as one of Barnes's very finest shorter works.

Christopher Wood by Richard Ingleby (Alison & Busby, £14.99) This intriguing hiography covers 10 tempestuous years, between Wood's ambition at 19 to be "the greatest painter that has ever lived" and his presumed suicide in 1930 beneath an express train. A patchy talent, he is best known for a handful of late canvases, especially the surreal masterpiece "Zebra and Parachute". Wood's hectic coupling (Anthony Powell

remarked scathingly on his "con-venient bisexuality") is almost a parody of the Jazz Agc. His drasie exil might have been prompted by opium, hlackmail or sad acknowledgement of his "genius

The Russian Century by Brian Moynahan (Pimlico, £10.00) In 250 superb pages. Moynahan records the incomparable drama of Russia over the past 100 years with verve and compulsive readability. The sweep of events is illuminated by telling details: there were 2 million nobles, including 2,000 princes, before the revolution: Lenin puzzling a posh wigmaker hy demanding an clderly-looking grey wig for disguise; Stalin's secret police so numerous that they filled whole suburbs. After a century of upheaval, this great land, "freighted with the venal, the cynical, the confused and the plain crazy", has still to find peace.

Famous Last Words edited by Sean Costello and Tom Johnstone (Mercat. £9.99) This diverting trawl of 35 obits from The Scotsman ranges from "the poor but interesting dog" Greyfriars Bohby to Marie Stopes, sexologist and

"authority on coal". The sketches reflect their times as much as the person. Of Victoria's squiffy ghillie John Brown, we learn only that "his manner may have appeared abrupt if not hrusque". while Nicholas Fairbairn is baldly described as "a victim of John Barleycorn". The overall effect is unexpectedly uplifting, as in the suggestion that Marxist poet Hugh MacDiarmid should be celebrated by a "two-minute pande-

Verdi: A Biography by Mary Jane Phillips-Matz (Oxford £15.99) The American-born author has lavished infinite pains on a monumental life of a man who demanded to be "left in ohlivion". Music-lovers should be grateful that Phillips-Matz put her qualms to one sidé. Verdi s genius is triumphantly celebrated, but the man behind the music proves to have feet of clay. This is literally so, since Verdi was a keen farmer, devoting so much time to his crops that his musical output was threatened. Industrious to the end the wrote Falstaff at 79), Verdi is easier to admire than love, being irascible with associates and a cold domineering hus-



The Monsters & the Critics by J R R Tolkien (HarperCollins, £9.991 It is hard to think of another academic who would be honoured by having such arcane essays reprinted in a popular edition. Surely there have been more interesting developments in Beowulf studies since the 1936 lecture which gives this volume its title? Such musty material only sees the light of day because Middle-Earth fans cannot get enough of Tolkien - but it is dnubtful if any of them will make it to the end of his essay on Gawaine and the Green Knight. But fantasy freaks might enjoy "On Fairy-Stories", where J R R reveals the spooky word "moorceffoe " is 'coffeeroom" seen from inside.

Portrait of Max Jacob, 1929, by Christopher Wood

Sngar and Other Stories by A S Byatt (Vintage, £6.99) First published in 1987, these stories deserve to be reissued. Unlike the rather unappealing fairytales she brought out a couple of years ago. this collection is concerned with women in real-life situations. though there's a hint of post-modern self-reference in the allusions to reading, writing and storytelling. In the hest pieces a schoolgirl hattles with a headmistress: a middle-aged writer unlocks her creative potential only to die: and Byait anticipates her Booker-winning navel Powersion with an exploration of fact. fiction and Victorian literature.

The Progress of Love by Alice Munro (Vintage, £6.99) Unlike A S Byatt, the Canadian writer. Alice Munro has built her reputation on short stories, and her mastery of the form is unmatched by anyone else. Mostly set in small town communities, her tales offer a yearning depth of emotion and an exquisite use of detail comparable with Chekhov, By some sleight of hand, she can condense a complex human relationship into a few pages or even sentences without compromising the relaxed, roomy feel of her style.



Audiobooks

f new to Patrick O'Brian, our most brilliant naval novelist not excepting C S Forester, avoid audio abridgements like the plague. Buy full-length versions, of which Treason's Harbour (Isis, 12hrs, £35.55) is the most recent. Patrick Tull is a shade breathy and his Spanish and Irish accents waver into pastiche, but he excels as bluff Cap'n Jack Aubrey and copes seamanfully with a varied and vigorous cast

before the mast. But O'Brian's 18th and most recent book is such a stopgap, dog-leg volume - one naval affray and only the promise of southern hemispheric adventure - that you will not miss much by only catching an abbreviated The Yellow Admiral (HarperCollins, 3hrs, £8.99), read with confident aplomb by Robert Hardy.

Christina Hardyment

Royal Festival Hall

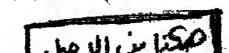
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MINDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

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Q Will your wife be able to go on working if you move to Downing Street?

A I see no reason why she shouldn't. Do you?

Q I wondered whether Prime Minister is one of the jobs where it is tricky for a wife to have a separate career.

A Hopefully we are a bit mature about these things. After all, no one said to Denis Thatcher that he should stop work.

Q What keeps you awake at night?

A The only thing that really makes me lie awake is that something might happen to the kids.

That really distresses me. With the politics, I know what I want to do. I think I've got something to offer.

I think I can change this country

EXCLUSIVE: in tomorrow's new-look Independent on Sunday, Labour leader Tony Blair talks to Rosie Boycott

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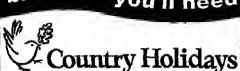
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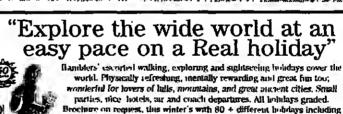
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travel & outdoors

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Sweet dates in a desert city

Chris Caldicott finds age-old hospitality in the souks of modern Oman

rom the air. I had seen Oman many times: rugged mountains, miles of seductive coast, white towns linked by long, black roads across an infinity of sand, under an infinity of sky. I had even been down there, but only to change planes and spend weary hours in the transit lounge. Despite all the glossy chrome of the futuristic airport, the people drifting in and our were dressed in the traditional regalia of the Arabian desert and suggested a far more exotic and timeless land. I wanted to know what it was

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Set at the mouth of the Gulf, between Arabia, Iran and the Indian subcontinent, Oman has for centuries been a trading nation. Early Arab conquests in the first wave of Islamic expansionism created both markets and protection, and Omani traders and shipbuilders made fortunes.

By the 16th century this wealth bad attracted the attention of resurgent European powers. In 1507 the Portuguese captured Oman and began a century-and-ahalf of cruel occupation.

By the end of the 17th century, while the Portuguese. Durch and British expanded their empires elsewhere and fought each other, Oman's power and wealth recovered. In the early 1800s its own empire incorporated the Somali coast of Africa, Zanzibar and parts of Persia and Baluchistan. Dhows full of slaves, spices and frankincense generated great ricbes, until 1856 when jealous rivalry between the Sultan's two sons split the sultanate. One son took all the African possessions, the other stayed with Arabia. Then slavery was abolished. This brought a weakened Oman into direct confrontation with the British Navy, the inheritor of Portuguese sea power. Fuelled by a combination of moral righteousness, economic calculation and naval technology, Britannia decline.

Under a lineage of conservative and autocratic sultans, Oman, reduced to fishing and date cultivation, dwindled into obscurity until the middle of this century. Then oil was discovered and the country began the business of reunification.

Keen to secure access to the emerging oil fields, the British aided Sultan Said bin Taimar in subjugating the subversive Imam of Nizwa and his rebellious hill tribes. It was the fierce conservatism of this imam that made it too dangerous for Wilfred Thesiger to enter the area during his explorations of the Omani deserts. Despite rapidly expanding oil revenues, Said bin Taimar. sbowed little enthusiasm for modernising Oman's semi-feudal society. In a bloodless palace coup in 1970 his more worldly son Qaboos was manipulated into power. Today he is the absolute ruler of a centrally controlled and clearly defined sultanate, although rebellion in the remote southern district

Oman essentials

Red Tape: The trickiest part of any trip to Oman is getting a visa, so you may decide either to apply for one before booking tickers or join an organised tour (in which case some of the work will be done for

If you are travelling independently: 1. Get an application form from the Visa Department, 167 Queen's Gate, London SW7 5HE (0171-589 2840), by personal application or by post (enclose

2. Complete and return the form together with a letter from your employer, or a bank statement showing you have sufficient funds to sustain you in Oman. You will need to send your passport, plus a fee of £30. 3. Wait about a week.

Getting there: Direct flights are available from Heathrow to Muscat on British Airways and Gulf Air, but fares tend to be high (around £550 through discount agents). Fares are lower if you change planes. Flightbookers (0171-757 2444) bas a fare on KLM of around £400 return from numerous UK airports via Amsterdam; Techno Travel (0171-482 0414) has a fare on Kuwait Airways via Kuwait of £439 including

Tours: Jasmin Tours (01628 531121) offers nine-day four-wheel-drive tours for £1072 per person. Cox and Kings



(0171-873 5000) has 11-day tours for £1875. In February 1998, ACE Study Tours (01223 835055) has a guided geographical adventure for £2095.

Further information: There is no tourist office in the UK, but you can try calling the information officer at the Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman on 0171-225 0001. Lonely Planet's Arab Gulf States (£12.99) is up-to-date and has a sensible 80-page chapter on Oman.

How to visit a small portion of Oman: Get a cheap flight to Dubai, then catch a local bus (fare £1.50) to the town of Hatta. Although there are no border posts, a longish stretch of the desert journey passes through northern

Rhiannon Batten

of Dbofar was not finally crusbed until

you feel Oman to be a very friendly and safe country. If there is a price to be paid for this security, then it is perhaps the ohsessive personality cult of the ruler. Qaboos's image is everywhere, and the media report loyally and incessantly on bis sayings and doings. But the distribution of wealth has been equitable (dissidents may claim shades of another strongman, Lenin), and health care, education, housing and communications are highly developed and freely available.

When we arrived, the intrigue of the Arabian desert still seemed frustratingly far away. An FM rock station accompanied the Jeep ride into the capital; with the sea on one side and emerging skyscrapers on the other, it felt like Cali-

Yet not everything old has been destroyed in the rush to modernity, even in the city. The palaces of old Muscat, the elegant old merchants' houses around the

are all well preserved. The souk is gen-Despite such recent turmoil, within However, it's all strangely clean and inutes of leaving the airport at Seeb, respectable, in fact all of urban Oman is.

Wahibah Sands. This great sand sea is didn't rise enough to sweep us away, all green pasture feed imported Friesian we could do was wait to be rescued. I cows. There is a law against driving a dirty car into the city. There are no bars, men cannot comfortably wear sborts, and women have to be very comprehensively dressed

The police are zealous but always polite; while out driving in the desert one night I was stopped by a patrol car with flashing lights and siren and requested to go back and pick up a cigarette butt someone had thrown out of the car win-

Yet romantic Arabia did not take long to find. We walked straight into it in the fishing villages along the Gulf of Oman between Muscat and Sur.

Sur itself still has traditional dhow building yards in its barbour. At a deserted beach near Tiwi there was an opportunity to enjoy some winter sun-sbine and swim in the clear sea among vibrant parrot fish, miniature sbarks and

As we turned inland, the sense of Ara-

and almost deserted Eastern Hajar mounthe car floor, flooding the engine. The taxi tropical fertility creates a sudden contrast uinely exotic and full of exciting wares. tains and arrived at the spectacular was stranded, and, as long as the water to the Empty Quarter: rolling hills of stretch to the horizon and provide a comfortable bed under the most dazzling of night skies. The towns to the west in and around the Jebel Akhdar are dominated by 17th-century forts.

The Jebel mountains alternate between lusb valleys of date palms and gardens around oasis springs, and fiercely rugged, arid hillsides dotted with villages. All of it is strikingly beautiful. The once uncontrollable tribesmen are now polite and hospitable to foreigners, often inviting visitors to their homes to drink coffee and eat dates. Most of the men are well armed and wear faded, patterned gowns, a sartorial world away from the neat, urban version, the dishdash. The women appear in full ourdab.

Despite the overwhelmingly dry mountains, it can rain very bard and suddenly. Flash floods, like the one we were caught in, can come out of nowhere. It came like a thunderbolt from a blue sky, inundatdhow harbour, and the souk at Mutrah, his intensified. We crossed the dramatic ing the road in seconds, erupting through

couldn't bave been shipwrecked with a nicer bunch of people. There was a turbaned Punjabi, a Christian from Kerala, two Baluchistanis, and an Egyptian driver. We spent two good-bumoured, soggy and rather anxious bours unable to see anything except water where the fields of rocks bad been. Our driver gallantly set off to find help, and returned with some rifle-sporting locals in a Japanese tractor. Inevitably the adventure ended with dates

and coffee. It is more than 600 miles from Muscat to the southern capital of Salalah. The road begins as an impressive multi-lane freeway speeding past the Jebel mountains, then a strip of bitumen stretches over the Empty Quarter. The monotony of the road is broken by futuristic oases of restaurants with air-conditioned marble interiors. Then you reach Dhofar and another world.

Dhofar is the only part of the whole Arabian peninsula exposed to the Arahian Sea monsoon. The consequent sub- lounge at Seeh Airport.

photograph: Chris Caldicol

Frankincense trees are dotted around the valleys, their spiky ugliness in contrast to the exotic aroma of their gum, which provided so much wealth to Dhofar in centuries past. The resin is still on sale in the souk of Salalah.

Some crumbling old merchants' houses remain hut most of the city is thoroughly modern - money has been poured into the region to ensure the inhabitants don't forget they are very much part of a united Oman governed from Muscai.

Beyond the city are miles and miles of undeveloped coastline, clean ocean and deserted beaches, Inland are ancient villages of rambling houses with carved wooden windows, surreal mosques, and an equally strange landscape made of limestone escarpments peppered with giant sink boles and caves, some of which are home to rather wild-looking Dhofari tribesmen. There is a feeling, here, of being in one of the outermost places on earth, certainly a long way from the transit



After the monotony of the desert road you reach Dhofar - another world







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Are we nearly there?

A weekly round-up of events for children

ust because Britain's recent flurry of snow has dissolved this doesn't mean the end of winter sports. ...Thanks to "dry" slopes, the pleasures of iskiing can still be enjoyed. Slower and safer than the white stuff, these runs are great for children to find their ski legs.

Midlothian Ski Centre, Biggar Road, mear Edinburgh (0131-445 4433) The largest in Europe, and a training -ground for many of the British team, >Hillend's three-quarter-mile slopes offer fantastic views of Edinburgh on the way down. Children from age six can attend open tuition on weekend mornings (one hour, £5). A less formal coption is Snow Cats, a supervised club where mini-skiers can play games, safely, on the slopes. (Every Sat, 2pmr4pm.£5.50).

Ackers Trust, Small Heath, Birmingham (0121-771 4448) -Acker's 100-metre slope is east of Birmingham city centre. An hour's tuition in a group of 12 costs £10 for adults and £7 for anyone under 16.

Cardiff Ski Centre, Fairwater Park, Fairwater Rd, Cardiff (01222 561793) Classes for children here are good value at £4 per bour. Junior Ski School runs classes for beginners and more skilled ** skiers every weekend (Sat and Sun, _9.40-11.30am), while tots as young as rtwo are welcome at Mini Moguls, a kindergarten class, as long as they have a shoe size above nine-and-a-half.

:Norfolk Ski Club, Whitlingham Lane, -Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk (01603 :662781) Take children along for a 90minute "taster" session (Wednesday evenings, 7pm-8,30pm, £5) or book them into the Junior Club on Saturday mornings (9am-10.30am, 10.30am--12pm, I2pm-1pm) for games designed to improve balance and agility.

-The John Nike Centre, Bracknell, Berkshire (01344 860033) A 160m rrun, trainer and nursery slopes. Senior instructor Adam Chater says that while the Ski School allows children to renter competitive races, the centre takes a "light-hearted approach", with the emphasis on fun. Children from four years can get group tuition at Kinder Snow Tots and Tigers (Sat and Sun, 10am-11am, £6.50), while kids eight to 16 years old should follow a -junior course (Sat, 2pm-3.30pm £9.50).

Liese Spencer

The virtual babysitters

Steve and Julia Newman leave their children in the care of Brighton's cyberspace

The venue

A couple of hours playing computer games on the Internet while your parents go shopping is probably every kid's idea of heaven. Now, in a Nineties version of children's Saturday morning cinema, the E-On Saturday Kids Club, hosted by Surfers @ Paradise, offers supervised surfing for the younger ones.

It's the sort of thing you would expect from Brighton - the town has made a name for itself in New Media circles and is the home to many young media cou-ples and their families. Once your charges are in the care of their experienced "cybersitter", you can stroll out.

Meanwhile, there's quite a buzz as the children tuck into a menu of popular games, chat forums and a real-time magazine to add to. The content of the games and the Internet is screened to make sure that kids are spared any lurid graphics or language, and the staff are all registered

With 20 children and six PCs, there can be some fairly interactive negotiations for access but, as many games can support two or three players, the cybersitters don't have too much problem keeping everybody occupied.

Steve, a university computer officer and Julia Newman, a bookseller, left their two children Tom, 12, and Kate, eight, alone in cyberspace.

Tom: I'd like to come again. If I wasn't bere I'd probably be at bome being bored, or I'd be going round the sbops with my mum and dad. My favourite games were Dracula and Paws of Fury. I think they should bave more computers - someone on my computer started playing chess. I'd give the club seven out of 10 but I'd only give the milk shake five.

Julia: I think it's an excellent idea - it's the first time for ages that Steve and I have been able to go shopping on our own. I'd definitely do it again. Even if I didn't have shopping to do – just to go and bave a coffee somewhere without the children would be nice.

The staff seem very good with the kids and everybody seems to be having fun-You hear a lot of bad publicity about



Staring into space: Once your charges are in the care of a 'cybersitter' you can stroll out

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computer games but I would much rather Tom was here than just hanging around town with his mates. Twelve is a difficult age as they want to go off on their own but there are not really that many activities which are suitable.

Kate: I liked playing on the computers and doing drawing. My favourite game was Dracula, with lots of ghosts, and I like racing games. I play computer games at home every day before my homework and I can beat my brother at some of them.

which was very nice, and I liked being left here on our own while Mum and Dad went away. The people were friendly and helped me do the games.

Steve: It meant that we were able to be out in the centre of Brighton early when it was still reasonably quiet. At £5 a bead, the club is good value in terms of child care. We couldn't afford it every time we went shopping, though.

The club could be useful in teaching children about the Internet, especially if I had vanilla and chocolate milk shake they don't have access tat home or at Access: There's a public car park a few

school, But I didn't see how much Internet access you get as opposed to games.

Admission: The E-On Saturday Kid's Club at Surfers @ Paradise, 18a Bond Street. Admission costs £5 per child. including tuition and refreshments. The club is open for eight-to-12-year-olds. Free Internct access with assistance is provided for parents of club members. Booking is essential - 01273 684 184. Opening Times: Sat. 9.30am-11.30am.

yards away. Brighton Station is a sevenminute walk away. Disabled access.

Shopping: Surfers @ Paradise is in the beart of the North Laine area, adjacent to Brighton's famous Lanes, Nearby, the Western Road has all the big retail names. The Palace Pier and Royal Pavilion are also near. Food: Café serves a Pacific Rim menu from an open kitchen, Tues-Sat, 10am-11pm, Sun and Mon 10am-6pm. Snacks [from £1], breakfast (from £1.95), main meals (£4.50-£11.95). All-day menu.

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something to declare

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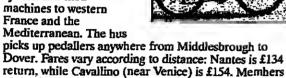
National Express (0990 808080) is hecoming so generous with its definition of old people that its Advantage discount coachcard could soon meet the young person's coachcard coming the other way. Anyone 50 years or over can get the card, valid for 12 months, in exchange for £8 and a passport photograph.

For the next few weeks, armed with the card, you can travel anywhere on the National Express network for £9.99 return. You cannot travel on Fridays or Sundays, and must finish the trip by 13 Fehruary. The deal is not available on Scottish Citylink or Ulsterbus coaches, hut can be used on Airlink services to Gatwick and Heathrow.

True or false

While Europe-bound motorists can benefit from Motorail services, cyclists will have to get on their bikes and pedal.

False: European Bike Express (01642 251440) runs weekly from May to September transporting cyclists and their machines to western France and the Mediterranean. The hus



of the Cyclists' Touring Club get a £10 discount.

A likely story

"Always join the nutside of a curved lift queue – it 9080. If you are heading moves faster" - the new AITO Directory of Real

Readers setting off for the slopes this weekend may wish to try out this piece of advice from Stanford Skiing, one of the holiday companies whose top tips appear in the Association of Independent Tour Operators' 1997 compendium - available

9080. If you are heading down rather up, then Superstar Holidays reveals that "the unique location of the Dead Sea. at the lowest point on earth, provides natural protection from sunhurn." Tanguey Tours also offers trips to the Holy Land, but its advice is less incisive: "Always be hack at the coach on time during an inclusive coach tour".

Trouble spots

Bus crashes around

Egypt: at least 30 people died when a packed public transport hus veered off a bridge in Cairo on Tuesday and toppled on to a hank of the Nile River, sinking into the mud. Buses are usually overcrowded, with people standing in the aisles and hanging out of the open doors - Reuter

Bangladesh: on Thursday, a bus skidded off a highway north of Dhaka and fell into a muddy ditch, killing at least 17 people and injuring 33 - AP

Peru: Last Saturday, a hus careered off a mountain highway and plunged down a ravine, killing nine. Overloaded buses, on poor roads, are common in the Peruvian Andes - Reuter



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Oxford landing in the Seventies

Inhaling deeply, Linda Cookson goes back to her university city

can't claim to have mingled much among the glitterati during my three years reading English at Oxford in the early Sevennes. True, I did once ruh shoulders with Martin Amis at the har of the Eastgate Hotel. But that was only on account of the har heing rather overcrowded and our respective heights being rather similar. We didn't speak. And, to the best of my knowledge, he didn't sigh afterwards: "Who was that entrancing creature in the duffel

coat, drinking Cherry B and cider?"
All in all, there were quite a lot of
things 1 didn't do at Oxford. 1 didn't go to any Summer Balls - far too expensive, and my grant had always run out by the end of term anyway. The closest my then-boyfriend and 1 got to one of these fabled thrashes was when he suffered the ignominy of being turfed out of his college room so that the lead singer of Mungo Jerry could take up residence. Nor did 1 go to any of those mysterious parties that today's politicians all seem to have gone to, where nobody inhaled the marijuana. (The parties I went to were much more fun than that.)

Undistinguished social life apart, I also wasn't much of a front-runner in the cultural stakes. It was, after all, the Seventies and no self-respecting Pink Fairies fan would have allowed himor herself to be seen wearing a college scarf, let alone doing any work. Hence, 1 didn't set foot in a single museum in the city during my undergraduate days - not even to marvel at the Alfred jewel in the Ashmolean or to gape at the shrunken heads in the Pitt Rivers Museum of Ethnology. These delights had to lie in wait for me until after I'd graduated - along with other treasures as diverse as Guy Fawkes's lantern, Oliver Cromwell's death mask and (in the Pitt Rivers) a ballerina made from flies.

Yet I wasn't a total heathen during my time in Oxford. I honoured a solemn oath not to torch the Bodleian



Classic Oxford; Radcliffe Camera

library, for example - a ritual that formed one of the weirder highlights of my first week. It came hard on the heels of Matriculation, an induction for new students carried out - in Latin - within the pillared grandeur of Wren's Sheldonian Theatre. For that ceremony 1 had to kit myself out in "subfuse", the university's black-andwhite uniform for formal occasions. In the photos I look like Fifi the maid. Other memorable moments from

Week One include tumbling down the stairs after my first tutorial, drunk on the novel taste of sherry - and, indeed, the first sight of my tutor, a marvellously grand lady of literature, who

smoked menthol cigarettes from a holder while a Siamese cat twined itself around her legs. More cred-itably, I remember gasping with aston-ishment when I first went into the underground Norrington Room at Blackwells, the city's most famous book-shop. Built out under Trinity

The bookshops in Broad Street remain very much the same now, although a large Dillons has appeared on the corner with Cornmarket. Other habitual ports of call for students have changed a bit. In the café world, for instance, the old Kardomah

College in 1966, the extension houses

more than three miles of shelving.

has vanished from Cornmarket, and the Wimpy - which used to have pictures of college dining halls on its walls in deference to the location has turned into a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet. Happily, though, the greasy spoon on St Giles lives on -and so does Browns in the Covered

Market. Here, tea comes thick as trea-

cle and you can watch the shoppers

of the world go by carrying everything from unplucked pheasants to jars of fancy pasta. The other Browns - Oxford's first brasserie, on Woodstock Road - is also still very much on the go. It's

1976, but still distinctive in its ambience of bustle and chat among pianos. plants and overhead fans. I went back to Oxford the other week and had lunch there. My old favourite, peasant's pot, had slipped from the menu. But the hot chicken salad was terrific. New places include Freud's on Walton Street, housed in a former church, and Café Coco on the Cowley Road - the latter being "where it's at", according to the newsletter reg-ularly sent to me by the University in the vain hope that 1 might one day endow a huilding.

The puhs, unsurprisingly, are still much the same, apart from the increase in Space Invader-type machines and a riot of trendy Italian hreads on the sandwich menus. The old-fashioned pubs are still the favourites - snug and cosy (if inevitably crowded and noisy) with their open fires and wood-panelling. There's the Eagle and Child on St Giles, where Tolkein. CS Lewis and others gathered daily to share their latest writing. There's the Turf, in Bath Place off Holywell Street, with its famous beer gardens and barbecues, and the Bear on Alfred Street, which boasts a collection of 7,000 ties. Nearest to the bookshops on Broad Street are the King's Arms (on the comer of Holywell Street) and - on Broad Street itself - the White Horse, where Inspector Morse is usually filmed taking his midday pint.

My trip hack to Oxford was before term started. The city was as beautiful as ever, with flakes of snow swirling round golden huildings. But I missed seeing the throng of students. There'll be many more women among them, 1 hope. (When I began at Oxford, only five undergraduate colleges admitted women. Now all of them do.) Some students will belong to colleges that didn't even exist in my day, such as Kellogg College (no prizes for guessing the nickname). All of these changes, I'm sure, are positive. But I also know that this generation of students - even at Oxford - will be labouring now under the sort of student poverty that didn't exist as we Pink Fairies fans wafted down the Cherwell on our punts. Higher education is now seriously underfunded. I was lucky and privi-leged to go to Oxford. I was even more lucky and privileged to be there during the Seventies.

Linda Cookson's latest book, a study of the poet Brian Patten, is published larger now than when it opened in in February (Northcote House, £7.99).

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an you write the ultimate survival manual for Manchester, or tell fellow students how to get the most out of Strathclyde? If so, you could win a trip to an even more exotic university town. BT Chargecard and The Independent have joined forces with Rough Guides and Campus Travel to concoct the best-ever

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2. Wander over to the West Coast, and bowl up at Berkeley, on the San Francisco bay (plus £1,000 spending 1. Surfer's Paradise may sound like an implausible place to graduate, hut study's up at Bond University on the Queensland coast of Australia (plus £1,500 spending money).

For guidance on styling your story, BT has set up a special helpline (0345 345004) which you can call at local rates - to hear top tips from Rough Guide writers. If you are calling from a payphone, you will find it cheaper to make the call with a BT Chargecard than by using cash. Call free on 0800 345144 to sign up.

Send your account, which needs to be accurate, pithy and observant, to: Write Your Way Around The World, Rough Guides, 1 Mercer Street, London WC2H 9OT to arrive by 1 March. The results will be announced just before Easter. Ten runners-up will each receive the Rough Guide to Britain. The winners may he commissioned to work on

1. Only students currently registered at UK universities and colleges may apply.

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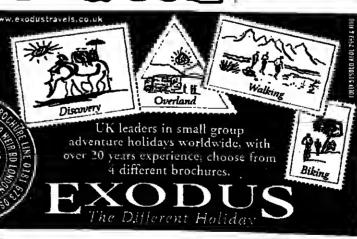
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THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 1997

It's a carve up on the slopes

Carving skis have become the sensation of the season. Stephen Wood tests out a pair

tions. They are no good for easier". beginners, hecause you can't snowplough on them or do skid turns. On a fast, straight schuss, they are very unstable. The more people you talk to - excellent skiers, equipment experts, ski instructors the more you wonder why "carving" skis have been such a sensational suc-

These new skis, also known as "side-cuts" or "parabolics", are wide at the front, curve inwards from either side down to the binding, and then splay out (to a varying extent) into a fish-tail shape at the back. The principle behind them is that the wider front helps to initiate a turn when the ski is on its edge, and that the narrower middle section allows the ski to bend more easily into a howed shape. When the whole length of the edge is forced downwards by the pressure through your boots, the curve of the ski will - in theory - make the turn for you.

Very strong skiers can achieve carved turns with traditional skis: they exert such pressure through their boots in fast turns that any ski will bend. The magic of the carving ski is that it enables even the average intermediate skier, who exerts only about a third of the pressure that a racer forces into his or her skis, to achieve the same effect. Or so the brochures say: the US ski manufacturer K2 claims that its intermediatelevel carving ski, the K2 Two, offers "stability in all kinds of terrain. It helps you carve naturally. It allows you to maintain balance and poise ... the better you get the more this ski lets you accomplish".

The ski magazines in the USA were instant converts. Skiing declared that "not since the switch from leather boots to plastic has there been such a profound change in ski equipment". Its rival Ski announced "the higgest leap forward in ski design since 1954", and - having tested 64 new models last autumn and given the K2 range a maximum six-out-of-six gold medals - con- around Les Arcs 2000. Carving skis,

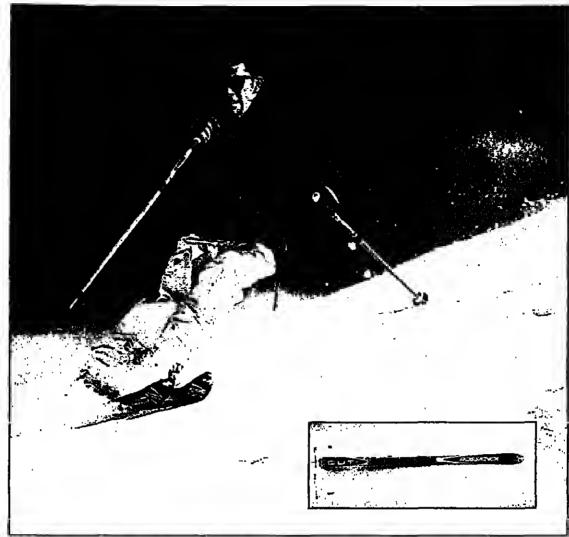
hey don't work in icy condi- cluded that "skiing [has] just got a lot

British ski buyers have been convinced, too. Ellis Brigham reports that in the chain of 10 shops that bear his name "75 per cent of the skis we have sold this season have been carving skis. Nobody made a fuss about the first ones that appeared last season; but now all the companies are making them, and making a fuss about them - which has convinced the customers that these skis are a hig deal. Right now, it looks as if next season every ski will be a carving ski." According to its British importer, K2 has come to a similar conclusion: about 90 per cent of its 1997/8 range will be carving skis, with only the high-performance models retaining a traditional shape. (He added, intriguingly, that only one market has not fallen for carving skis; but he didn't know why the Japanese aren't buying them.)

Last weekend, I borrowed a pair

of K2 Two skis to test in the French Alps. The manager of a ski-hire shop in Les Arcs was very excited by them: he'd heard such good things about the K2s that, if I'd played my cards right, I could have rented them to him. But my fellow skiers seemed oddly unimpressed. They divided into the experts, who found carving skis interesting, good fun in certain conditions, but not to be taken entirely seriously; and the intermediates who had struggled to achieve the promised great leap forward in their skiing abilities. All were still waiting to feel the magic of "natural carving". The more we talked, the longer the list of criticisms grew.

Most of them were unfounded. To my relief I found that I could ski just as hadly on carving skis as on any other; on every surface, from icy to powdery, the K2s indulged bad habits. You can snowplough although logic tells me that a straight-edged skl will give better braking performance. You can do skid turns - and I did some languid beauties on the endless lower pistes



The wider front of a carving ski (inset) helps initiate a turn when the ski is on its edge

itional equivalents, certainly do wander on a schuss; but their curved profile seems to make them less prone to catch an edge on well-worn rutted tracks. And with their widerthan-normal prow, they give you a

very easy, de luxe ride. The holy grail, though, eluded me. After two tentative and unrewarding days in its pursuit, the instructors at Les Arcs convinced me that I would have to turn faster, push harder and lean further if I was to get enough bend on my skis to carve a turn, Right at the limit of my capabilities, it began to feel good; then, suddenly,

which are worn shorter than the trad- it hurt. But I am almost walking normally again, and the wound on my shin is healing.

There is, of course, no such thing as the carving ski; after all, Ski magazine found 64 varieties, with a range of angles of side-cut, degrees of rigidity and dimensions. Add the variations between individual skiers, and you have no consensus about carving skist The K2 Two, with its moderate side-cut, suited me very well and I would happily keep trying to carve on it; but you might find it unmanageable in icy conditions, no good for snow ploughs or skid turns and unstable on a schuss.

And, if my experience is an unreliable guide, so is the advice of the "experts". The instructors at Les Arcs told us to keep our skis apart when carving turns: otherwise, well hefore the optimum angle of lean is reached (you stand up only when your uphill hand touches the snow), your boots will snag each other. This was obviously sound advice. But at Lyon airport I picked up a copy of Skieur magazine, attracted by its step-by-step photographic feature on the use of carving skis. In each picture the skier, in the traditional parallel-turn stance, had his skis

right next to one another.



reader of this column would be so unscrupulous as to try this wheeze

Surely no

y now, everyone living in the northern half of By now, creaming of in the northern half of Britain must be fed up with the performance of Eurostar. Long before the Channel Tunnel opened in 1994, travellers were promised direct trains from Berwick to Brussels and from Preston to Paris. Because the rolling stock was not ready (and still isn't). a solution was found: special trains from the North direct to Waterloo, for a quick

change to Brussels or Paris. We have revealed in these pages how underpopulated these services were - mainly because arcane regulations meant they could not carry people who wanted to go only as far as London.

Rather than try to change these rules, so that potential passengers were actually allowed to catch the trains, Eurostar has opted to cancel the special links. Now, Europe-bound passengers from Edinburgh, for example, must travel on ordinary trains as far as Kings Cross, Then they are supposed to use the Underground even though the obvious route - using the Bakerloo Line - is closed. London's cabhies must be delighted, as well as airlines flying to Paris and Brussels

from regional airports, Eurostar portrays the change as an improvement, pointing to a much wider choice of trains, and the prospect of travelling on Sundays. And some domestic rail users could benefit though since the following wheeze involves bending rules, surely no reader of this column would be so unscrupulous as to try it?

To swecten the regional downgrade, Eurostar has negotiated special fares on InterCity West Coast and Great North Eastern Railways. To qualify for a £30 return fare from Glasgow to London, free of the usual low-fare advance purchase restrictions, all you need do is show an onward Eurostar ticket from Waterloo to the Continent.

It does not take a huge intellectual leap to realise that anyone in possession of a full-fare, refundable Eurostar ticket can qualify for cut-price travel between Scotland and London. You show the ticket at Glasgow Central station to huy your cheap trip to London, then hand in the Euroticket for a

full refund. If premeditated, this sort of behaviour breaks the rules. But suppose a mohile phone user (of whom there seem to be hundreds aboard every train these days) learns en route of a good reason why he or she should not continue with the European portion of the trip.

The passenger is surely not going to be asked to pay the full fare, even in the post-privatisation railway wonderland? Legal counsel would be appreciated.

No subterfuge is needed for the next top tip - just being born on the right day. The US airline Reno Air is giving upgrades to first class to any economy passenger who can prove it is their hirthday. Annoyingly, this option applies only to those born in the first half of the year; it expires on 1 July.

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Cathy Packe explores Vicenza.

towns of Italy. During the working marana. day people bustle about, but as sooo as midday has passed, shops begin to close and the frenetic pace of life calms. As the streets go quiet, little can be heard but a gentle chink of cutlery on china.

Arriving in Vicenza at lunch time (ao hour from Venice by train) offers two opportunities. The first, and possibly the most important, is the chance of a decent meal: lunch is taken as seriously here as anywhere in Italy. The other is that with the streets deserted, the architectural glories of the place can he seen at their best.

In the early 1400s Vicenza was a prosperous artistic centre, which came under the protection of the Venetian republic. Traditionally a textile centre, it now has a thriving chemical industry; but it also manages to remain one of the most attractive small towns in northern Italy.

At first sight - and certainly if you take any notice of the leaflets put out by the tourist office - Vicenza would seem to be something of a one-horse town, the horse in this case being the 16th-century architect Andrea di Pietro, aka Palladio. He is commemorated in hotels, cinemas, and other local landmarks and the town's main thoroughfare is, predictably enough, the Corso Palladio.

In Vicenza, you can survey his work effortlessly by taking a geotle stroll down the Corso; start in the Piazza Castello and head north east, which guarantees that you leave the best till last. The street meanders along, lined with cafés and arcades, and crossed by narrow alleyways. As you head down to the Piazza Matteotti at the far end, you pass several palazzi: Thiene, Capra, Pojana, and Barbaran. Their designs are attributed to the hand of Palladio but all seem to have been finished by someone else. This looks like an attempt to cash in on a famous came - a sort of Italian version of "Elizabeth I slept a series of little underground shops, a here" - but oooetheless it makes for a more permanent version of the original town which is elegant and pleasantly pro- outdoor market. The interlocking levels

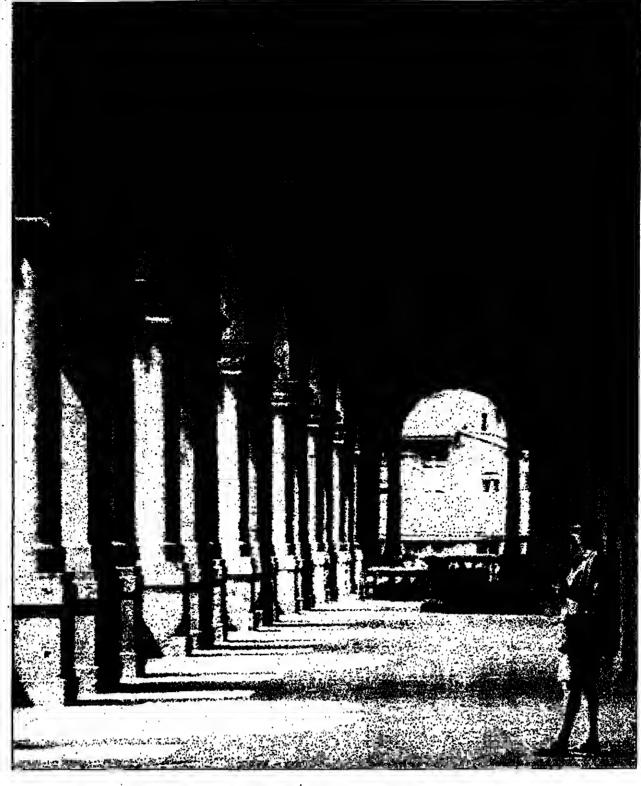
raditioo dies hard in the small nearly at the bottom, is the Cappella Val-

Back oo the Corso, after the church, is the Palazzo Chiericati. Now the home of the municipal art gallery, this is one of Palladio's finest buildings. The façade has two rows of columns, above which stands a row of classical statues. Inside is a collection of paintings by artists of Vicenza and Venice, including Tiepolo, Tintoretto and Veronese.

Across the way is the Teatro Olimpico. Even in a country where the extraordinary is commonplace, this is a hreathtaking treasure. From the outside, the building is distinguished only by an iroo oameplate hung across a stone arch, the 16thcentury equivalent of a billboard. At the end of the small gardeo, huy your ticket and head down a narrow corridor and through two ornate anterooms. Finally you reach the auditorium.

On the stage is a classical town with streets disappearing in various directions off a central square. Around the square are pillared façades, complete with statuefilled niches. It is a permanent set, but the effect is so lifelike that you can almost see a thief lurking in a shadowy doorway, or a young heroine leaning out of an upstairs window, During the summer seasoo you could go to a performance here; at other times, sit down on one of the steep tiers of seats and leave it to your imagination. Don't be misled into thinking there is

nothing more to Vicenza thao Palladio. As you head out of the theatre aod hack up the Corso, turn left into an alleyway beside the Bata shoe shop, go under the arch and you will emerge into a large, perfectly proportioned square, the Piazza dei Signori, which is dominated on one side by the Basilica Palladiana. Cross the square and head down some steps and everything becomes higgledy-piggledy. Go past the flower stall and you will find



Head back to the square again in the late afternoon, as the sun begins to go down. A table outside the Caffé Garibaldi is the perfect spot from which to observe another Italian ritual, the passeggiata. As the pace of the city slows portioned. Just off the Corso to the left, surrounding the Basilica give a curious at about the same rate as your Campari

France

3-D effect which is strangely at odds with diminishes, you may contemplate speod-the symmetry elsewhere in the town. diminishes, you may contemplate speoding another day io Vicenza: visiting Moote Berico, a short bus trip from the town ceotre. The two glorious villas here - Villa Valmarana, filled with Tiepolo frescos, and Palladio's Villa Rotuoda (pictured opposite) - are as heroic as the Teatro Olimpico. Or you might just watch the world parade before you.

Vicenza's nearest international airports are Verona, and Venice's Marco Polo. Either city is an hour away by train. Gatwick-Verona: British Airways (0345 222111) has a World Offer fare of £150 return inc tax; book by 29 January. Gatwick-Venice: Sky Shuttle (0181-748 1333) has charter flights on Monarch for £158 inc tax.

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Vicenza's Basilica: arrive here at lunchtime and you'll find the place deserted PHOTOGRAPH: ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION

Night-time raids on Vicenza

Once you've finished admiring
Vicenza's extraordinary architecture. what else? There is more to this town than immediately meets the eye. Did you know that the Air War over Bosnia was controlled from the small bases to the north of the town, and that there are several thousand American paratroopers stationed on the eastern side?

As British air-crews found while stationed here during the Bosnia campaign, American paras aren't particularly adventurous, and only rarely venture as far as the city centre. So they haveo't spoilt the town at all. Yet they have had an impact – if your Italian iso't quite up to speed theo you are more likely to find English speakers here than in other parts of the country. For flyers in search of nightlife,

here's where the locals and the aircrews go. The Piazza dei Signori is the place to start on an evening, hut don't bother before 9pm, there will be few people about (this is, after all, a latin country). There are several small, fun hars dotted around the side streets surrounding the square, including a good jazz bar aod, surprisingly, an Irish bar. If you want to stay eveo later, then go to the out-of-town discos. There are several withio a few miles of the ceotre and they all opeo to the wee hours. One worth a visit is The Boom - about 12 miles north of town, if you can afford the taxi. It is the size of a superstore and has a dancefloor to cater for every type of music. In the summer there is eveo a dancefloor outside. It's a very popular spot with the locals, but it is so hig the queues are short.

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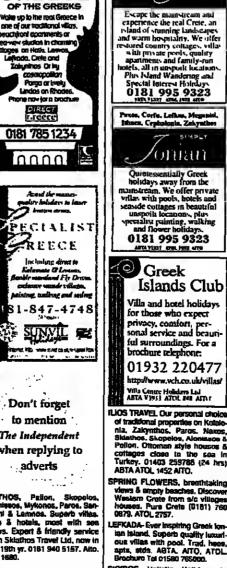








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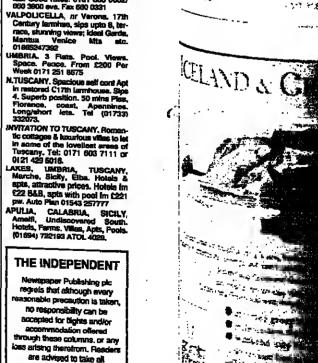


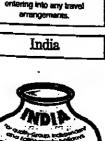


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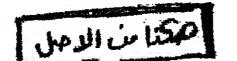












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light-time aids on Vicenza

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ationed here during the Bastia mpaign. American paras atent erg manne er entarius, and only sels centure as for a the city rifre. So they haven't spoilt the wh at all. Yet they have had an there - if your framm isn't done her street that had not that sels to find English on their here an in other parts . The country For fivers in seaton of mighting are a sector the locals and the air res po. The Pileza de Signon o to relace to start in an evening on the transfer pater. The same taw people about the maper di a tatin la cintro . I care are rectal otto a fun mare demos

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nza's Basilica:

Palladio's perfect building

Jonathan Glancey admires the Villa Rotunda

ndrea Palladio (1508-80) is the renaissance genius who shaped not only Vicenza hut created some of the finest country houses of all time.

These can be found along the Brenta Canal and the Po Valley between Venice and Vicenza. One of the finest is Villa Capra (better known as the Rotonda and built in 1550-1551 for Cardinal Capra) an exquisite villa famous for its four identical entrance facades - more a summer retreat than a workaday home - which is reached via an easy and delightful walk from the centre of Vicenza.

If it looks familiar to British eyes, this is because the house was reinterpreted both at Chiswick by Lord Burlington and at Mereworth in Kent in the 18th century. It also played a starring role in Joseph Losey's luscious film version of Mozart's Don

Glovanni. Palladio was the hero of what we call the Palladium novement, a British architectural fashion jurtured by Lord Burlington which ousted the theatrical Baroque of Wren, Van Brugh and Hawksmoor, replacing it with a rigorous and chaste style that stayed in fashion for around 50 years and gave Britain the couotry houses we know and cherish today.

Thomas Jefferson, resident and author of the American Declaration of Independence, took Palladio's style with him to Virginia where he teoded the flowering of a transatlantic Italian

Palladio has cast a long and perfectly proportioned shadow across the face of the western world. Arguably he is the most influential of all architects and the charisma of his perfect buildings continues to fascinate us.

Looking at the Rotonda it is easy to see why. The house, its proportions rooted firmly in the golden mean and a related series of sophisticated mathematical ratios, is as complex and as harmonious as a Bach fugue. It is also extremely heautiful,

enhances the landscape and is handsomely crafted. And it is a delightful architectural puzzle - is it a square house huilt around a dome, or a circular house with square walls?

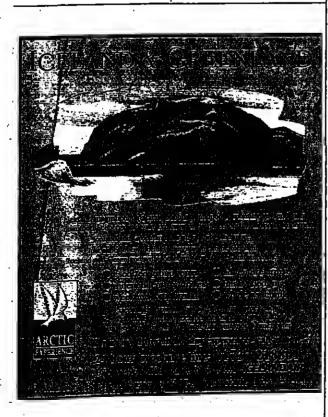
Palladio was popular with clients - the new Venetian rich who wanted model farms to escape to after long seasons making large amounts of money from banking and international trade in Venice - and with workmen too. Clients loved him because he endowed them with immaculate taste and sophistication; huilders respected him as a fellow craftsman who had worked his way up the hard way.

Born in Padua, Andrea di Pietro della Gondola was apprenticed as a stonemason. The name we know him by is a nickname derived from Pallas, goddess of wisdom and was bestowed on the hrilliant young mason by his patron and mentor, Gian Giorgio Trissini, who introduced Palladio to the worlds of antiquity, classicism and ancient Rome. Trissini took his protégé to Rome in 1545 where they stayed until 1547. Palladio brought Rome back io his satchel and reinterpreted its finest architecture for the Venetian bourgeoisie. He did not disappoint them.

Out in the country around Vicenza it is hard to know where to start a tour of Palladio's peerless farmhouses. There are a large number of them and they are all magnificeot. Perhaps the best starting point is the Villa Saraceno, now owned and rented out by the Landmark Trust (01628 825925). Book well ahead and live in the style

of Palladio. Then compare it to Villa Pogliano, Villa Zeno, Villa Barberi, Villa Mocenico. Each is a brilliant marriage between ancient Rome and the (modern) world Palladio and his clients

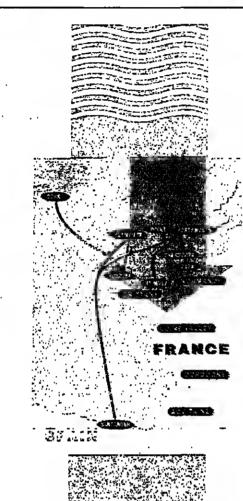
operated in. A tour of these houses will take you through delightful countryside not grand, but happily settled - and make you hungry for more. Travelling may tire you, but Palladio never will.

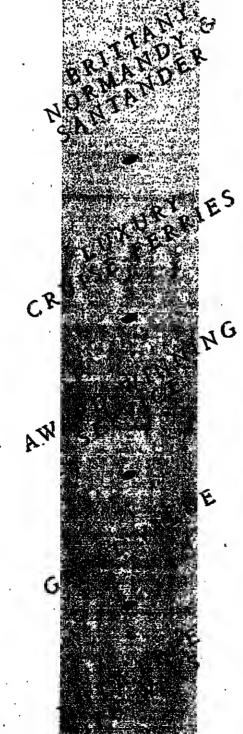






A delightful architectural puzzle: the Villa Capra, better known as the Rotunda







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Duff Hart-Davis

t is now 11 years since we moved into our farmhouse, hut I still know lamentably little about its history. A visiting an area dowser once sat in the kitchen over a cup of coffee and, after consulting his pendulum, asked whether the building had gone up in 1681. I replied that it was entirely possible, but I had

no way of verifying it. Over the years scraps of information have come to light. For example, in 1936 an entire second storey was removed, because the weight of the stone was causing the walls to hulge. To this day the house is spleudid names: held together with tierods, with crossed bars and nuts at either end.

We also know that there were more huildings in and around the farmyard, and that two cottages once stood in the corner of the wood just above us. But when did they disappear? Inside the house, why is the wall between sitting room and parlour 6ft thick? And why are some doorways only 5ft 6in high? Were people really that small in those days?

Many such questions came to mind when I hit on a copy of Northcourt Avenue, a 70-page history of a pleasant residential road in Reading's southern suburbs. The pamphlet is obviously of greatest interest to residents, but it is so well researched and produced that it may goad other householders into discovering more about their homes.

The autbor is Penny Kemp, a history teacher who came to the Avenue only in 1988, and so felt "rather presumptuous" in tackling the hooklet. She put a tremendous amount of unpaid work into the project, hut, like everyone who became involved, she felt it was heneficial to the community, as it helped people to get to know their neighbours better.

Her on-site contributors have not dug deeply included distinguished artists who gave their services free, providing attractive line drawings not only of the houses, but also of the birds and animals in the gardens.

It is sobering to find that the Avenue - which is now engulfed in the sprawl of Reading - did not exist until early this

It is the close detail of everyday life that is of greatest fascination in the history of

century. The ground its houses now cover was then farmland belonging to the Palmer family (in partnership with whom Thomas Huntley famously made hiscuits). În 1904 builders bought the land and speculation ran riot. The Twenties brought a particular rush of new dwellings, many with tepaside, El Ferden. Gorphwysfa, Locarno.

Today Northcourt Avenue is a long way from open country. You have to drive through two miles of solid house and then solid houses, and then cross the M4, before you

come to any fields. The street gains interest from its proximity to Reading University and Leighton Park School. And Peter May, captain of the England cricket team, was brought up at No 95; Margaret Thatcher once went to a christening party in the garden of No 42. Yet it is the close details

of everyday existence, the fluctuating fortunes of the families who huilt or bought the bouses, that provide the greatest fascination. The Avenue contains only 120 households, hut more than 300 copies of the booklet have already been sold. A similar record of the nearby village of Sonning bas gone through three editions. Local estate agents have been among the keenest buyers. reckoning that a bit of history increases the value of any property.

If so much can be found out ahout a street that has existed for less than a century, why do I know so little about my own house, which is at least three times as nld? Perhaps I enough in the local record office. Maybe I should question more old-timers in the village. Mrs Kemp and her belpers have inspired me to have a go.

Northcourt Avenue: its History and People' (£9 inc p&p), available from Penny Kemp, 66 Northcourt Avenue, Reading RG2 7HQ

The right to ramble on

David Foster assesses the impact of new footpaths

words are sure to make the feathers fly. For most of this century ramhlers have been pressing for a statutory right to roam over open, uncultivated countryside in England and Wales; and Iandowners, pointing to the practical difficulties, have consistently opposed their proposals.

The Country Landowners Association (CLA), whose members own 60 per cent of the rural land in England and Wales, believes that the time has come for a less adversarial approach. To them, countryside recreation means more than just walking; they recently asked more than 60 interested organisations (including canoeists, anglers, cyclists and all-

wheel-drive enthusiasts) for input into their Access 2000 policy. The Ramblers' Association's Director, Alan Mattingly, while wel-coming the proposals for more space to roam, sees "the primary aim of Access 2000 as an attempt by landowners to bead off any moves... to legislate for freedom to walk over

mountain and moorland". Still, actions speak louder than words, and some landowners have already created "permissive paths" on their estates. These allow free public access, usually for a defined period of up to 10 years, whilegiv-

reedom to roam. Whenever much use if nobody knows where they landowners and ramblers talk are. The Ordnance Survey is to show about access, those three more access information on its Landranger maps. The larger-scale Pathfinder series is also due for a major revamp, and some some long-term permissive paths will he added.

The estate owner

Barn owls hreed on Robin Combe's estate at Bayfield, just a couple of miles inland from Blakeney on the North Norfolk coast. There are otters in the river and butterflies in the park.

A different owner might try to keep people out, but Mr Combe, a CLA member, says: "Anybody who doesn't open as much of their estate as they possibly can is making a huge mistake. Most ramblers have the interests of the countryside at heart; they're the people we bave to enlist on our side to help protect it."

These aren't just empty words. He has so far opened up free access to four miles of permissive footpaths at Bayfield, and has 10 miles of riding track paid for by annual subscription.

But his work has implications beyond the estate's boundaries, for North Norfolk's internationally important scenery and wildlife are under threat from the sheer number of visitors. The Norfolk Coast Project, a joint Countryside Commission and local authority initiative, aims to ing landowners far more freedom encourage holidaymakers to sample was marching to lay siege to Harlech the more popular walks, and to putowners are worried about their legal
to manage their estates profitably. some of the area's less vulnerable Castle. Near journey's end, the sollish maps of the routes, graded for liability when accidents do happen.

habitats. Project Officer Graeme Hayes sees Bayfield's initiative as a positive step; "Visitors' cars are a real problem on the coast," he says. "Get-

foot is an ideal solution." It's a concept that seems to work well for everyone. "In the three years we've had these access paths," says Mr Combe, "we've had nothing but goodwill, pleasure and a great deal of satisfaction for a lot of people. I'm

thrilled we've done it.'

ting people to explore inland areas on

The farmer In 1468 an English army under the command of the Earl of Pembroke diers swept down the Nantcol valley, crossing the land now grazed by John Wynne's sbeep. Other feet now tramp these hills,

and Mr Wynne is delighted to see them. "They're all nice people," he says, "but what they don't realise is that when you come into this sort of a place it is potentially hazardous". Time and again he gets called out to help rescue lost or injured walkers who have strayed off the footpaths and come to grief on the precipitous mountain slopes above his farm at Glyn Artro, near Lianbedr.

The solution, thinks John, is for the National Park Authority to waymark

difficulty. Yet there is already a plethora of guidebooks and leaflets.

The authority bas recently completed the first-ever survey of all Snowdonia's footpaths and bridleways. Less than a third of them meet all the legal requirements for public use, hut essential remedial work is under way. However, highintensity waymarking might engender a false sense of security, Narional Park wardens would prefer to see walkers navigating safely with map

and compass.

But, with no clear consensus on how inexperienced walkers can best enjoy the mountains, many landowners are worried about their legal



PHOTOGRAPH: RO2 STRATTON

How to make a molehill out of a mountain .

Gill Tunstall navigates her way around the Welsh hills

ccording to Ruskin, there's no such thing as bad weather, tains is anybody's guess. But that's own. British weather for you. Fickle. One minute you're strolling along a mountain path like Heidi, the next you're in the eye of a storm, lost, with a map that rapidly turns to papier mache.

Yet it needn't he that way, as I discovered by joining an introductory mountaineering skills course at Plas Y Brenin, the National Mountaineering Centre at Capel Curig in north Wales. The five-day course covers almost everything you need to know to have a safe day out on the hills.

And that's what Jonathan, a tree surgeon from Essex, Annie, a globeonly different kinds of good weather. How he would have electronics engineer, and Caroline, a described an Indian summer fol-lowed immediately by storm-force pensions adviser, wanted to learn. All had walked with groups, but wanted gales and rain as thick as Dralon cur- the confidence to strike out on their footbridge to woodland, and learning

> The first morning dealt, appropriately, with weather. As gales hat-tered the building, we huddled round cxactly the sort of terrain to get to a Met Office map, with a swirl of tightly-packed isobars like a migraine before our eyes. Like Ruskin, our instructor, Carl Harbel, is a man who looks on the hright side. The weather may have looked had, hut it wouldn't put a dampener on the day. So, after juggling map and compass in the classroom, we headed into the great outdoors for the real thing.

"Navigation is absolutely the most vital thing for a good day out on the hills," said Carl. With that in mind we spent the afternoon splashing round open moorland nearly, navigating from stream bend to wall junction, to read the land from the map and vice versa. We never strayed high it grips with navigation.

Sometimes when you're out on the hill and it's windy and raining it's easy to follow a boundary line un the map instead of a path." warned Carl. "The thing is that some of these boundaries end up running over the edge of cliffs, so you need to he sure before going on to the hill." Gradually, we learnt the practical

value of our lessons. We worked out how many paces we each took to walk 100 metres and could then measure distance as we strode out. The squiggles on the map became hill tops, slopes and cliffs, white spaces meant flat ground, and by taking a compass bearing we confirmed that we were

going in the right direction. Confidence began to grow, and by day two even the sky looked brighter. By lunchtime we had honed our navigation skills and were heading for the summit of Tryfan, an Alpine-style 3,000ft mnuntain that rises from the Ogwen Valley like a huge rock furtress. As we scrambled through heather on to houlder-strewn slopes to the top, the clouds rolled in and out, giving tantalising glimpses of the surrounding mountains.

* THE INDEPENDENT

We descended through a rock gully, slithering down paths that had turned into streams in the unrelenting rain, gingerly lowering ourselves down rock "steps" that seemed impassable at first glance, all the time under Carl's watchful eye.
"It's funny," said Jonathan, as we

and think, 'I can't get down that', but you do it and realise it's all right. Then you look up at where you've been and think, 'I just came down there!""

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Plas Y Brenin runs mountaincering and navigation courses all year round. For a brochure call 01690 720214. The British Mountaineering Council (0161 445 4747) has a list of recognised centres and instructors providing similar courses throughout the country.

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5. Vouchers are valid from 11 January to 30 September 1997.



House Hotel in Bourton on

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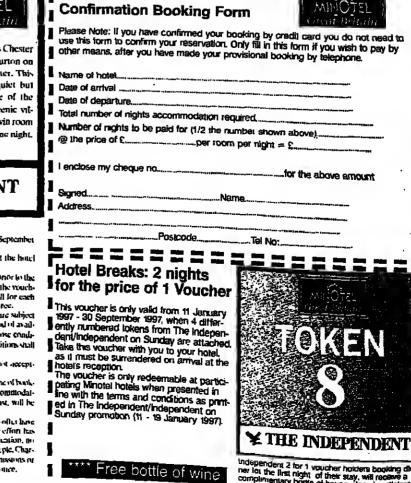
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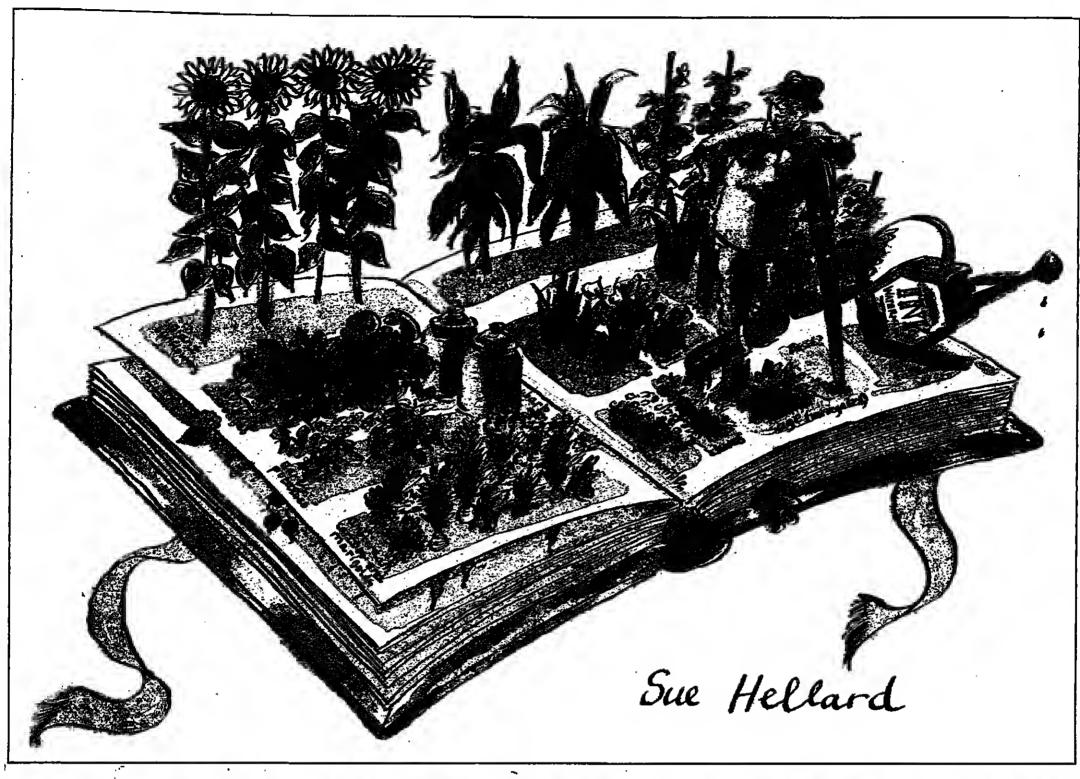
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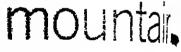
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A reminder of past triumphs

Anna Pavord is inspired by a meticulous gardening diary





سادويوا

t

grew up the inside of the walls as well as the outside, that the first years galloped by unrecorded. Looking back, I see only a blur of small children, too many animals and huge bonfires.

1t took us 18 months of hacking through brambles, elder and seedling sycamores to find what we supposed were the boundaries of the garden. When finally I broke through to a stone wall at the back of what is now the top lawn, I came face to face with farmer Fry, our neighbour, feeding sheep in the adjoining field. "Well," be said, after gazing at me steadily for a while. I haven't seen anyone up there since the big war." He meant the first one of course.

So quite a lot had happened before one January, four years after our arrival, I finally wrote "Garden Book" on an old school exercise book and started making notes. "Attacked the boundary hedge, got rid of remaining brambles and rebuilt two sections of the retaining wall." A lot of attacking goes on in the early entries. It makes me feel exhausted just to read about it.

But, usefully, the garden diary jogs the

ing the same mistake twice. But such was bed. I had eight more delivered last week tags. It is very vigorous and bore the best to edge paths in the vegetable garden. The crops of berries." price? £20 each plus VAT.

The problem with garden books is that when there is most to write about, there is least time to write. But 1 bope to do better this year than I bave in the past, spurred on by the garden books kept by my great-uncle. They are models of precision and clarity, and from time to time 1 take them down from my shelves and read them as a special sort of treat. Or rather a re-treat - from the chaos of the

He was a schoolmaster of a type that scarcely exists now: ascetic, solitary, a traveller, formidably well read. He started his garden books when be retired to a cottage with an acre of garden, and they stretch from March 1945 until June 1962 when the last entry reads "My garden is a jungle.
Ill health." He died a month later.

His special interests were carnations, auriculas, sweet peas and chrysanthemums, on all of which he made meticulous notes. He planted two orchards and kept a huge vegetable garden, barvesting at least two dozen different crops each memory about things I'd forgotten. It notes year, all plotted on a neat map of the gar-more riveting it becomes to read in garden

ne of my good intentions when the date that the old apple tree, the den. In January 1958 be notes "Cleaned books and diaries about gardens being cressome extra bellebores when the flowers we first moved to our bouse was centre-piece of the round border, blew blackcurrants and mulched them with ated, and the minutiae of the work being are full out. Then I can pick the kind 1 like to keep a record of work that we down in a terrible gale. It records the price compost, fire ash and a sprinkling of Gro-carried out. On 17 January 1653, the did in the garden. If nothing else, of the railway sleepers (£5.60 each) that 1 more fertiliser. Labelled the bush second diarist John Evelyn noted that he began from the south-west end with three metal to set out the ovall garden at Sayes Court

> Now that's the kind of thing 1 keep meaning to do: mark the blackcurrant bushes that seem best to propagate from. Notes jotted down about particularly good forms of plants jog the memory when the right moment comes for taking seed or cuttings. I had some extraordinary opium poppies in the garden this year, but only got round to marking some of the seed pods with twists of green wire. Finding those at seed-collecting time was easy, but the rest

ray be lost for ever. In spring 1953 my great-uncle was planting out one of his old carnation beds as a cutting garden, edged with mignonette. In the first row he had love-in-a-mist 'Miss Jekyll' and Californian poppies. In the second he planted sweet sultan and clarkia, in the third Shirley poppies and Chrysanthe-mum tricolor. In the fourth row he put English pot marigolds, a variety called 'Radio' (still available from Chilterns Seeds) and finished off with a row of crimson godetias and larkspur. The choice perfectly encap-

sulates cottage gardening of the Fifties.

The further back in time you go, the

got in to edge the sides of the asparagus from the south-west end with three metal to set out the ovall garden at Sayes Court which was before a rude orchard. All the rest an intire field of 100 acres without any hedge". This was the beginning of the work that eventually made Sayes Court, Deptford, one of the most important gardens of the 17th century.

Parson Woodforde is best known for the gargantuan meals that be put away, all noted in the diary he kept between 1758 and 1802, but between "the neck of mutton boiled, the goose, the rost beef and the plumh puddings", Woodforde found time on 4 January 1782 to "enlarge my Pleasure Ground a Trifle by taking in part of the small Field near Goochs House". In January 1790, he noted "the Season so remarkable mild and warm that my Brother gathered this morning in my Garden some full blown Primroses".

My own garden book records that in the January I started it, the hellebores were in full bloom by now. The poor things started to pierce through the ground round about Christmas this season, but the hitter wind and the iron-hard ground have dissuaded them from coming on any further. Very sensible. But I'm longing for their appearance and have promised

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The practical Romans originally missed out January and February altogether from their calendar, arranging a 10-month year tied to what farmers needed to do on the land. That would suit gardeners, too. January and February are the worst months for trying to do anything that involves the earth or its plants. But they are good months for planning. Or should be.

Harold Nicolson, who laid out the garden at Sissinghurst with his wife, Vita Sackville-West, noted in his diary a futile planning session in the dog days after Christmas 1946. "In the afternoon I moon about with Vita, trying to convince her that planning is an element in gardening. I want to show her that the top of the moatwalk bank must be planted with forethought and design. She wishes just to jah in the things which she has left over. The tragedy of the romantic temperament is that it dislikes form so much that it ignores the effect of masses. She wants to put in stuff which will give a lovely red colour in the autumn', I wish to put in stuff which will furnish shape to the perspective. In the end we part, not as friends."
Poor man. VSW has usually been given the lion's share of the credit for the garden at Sissinghurst. Nicolson's diary gives myself a visit to R&D Plants to choose us the means to redress the balance.

gardening

cuttings



lower of the hour. Mahonia x media 'Charity' (above). Why? Because the shrub, though gaunt in an Enoch Powell sort of way, has great presence. It is stiffly upright, formal and evergreen, with leaflets arranged in pairs along a rib more than a foot long. Spikes of yellow flowers, which smell of cowslips, burst in clumps from the growing tips of the upright branches. They start in November and sometimes last until February. 'Charity' ('Faith' and 'Hope' inevitably followed) was picked out from a line of plants growing in Louis Russell's Windlesbam Nursery by Sir Eric Savill of the Savill Gardens, Windsor. It was one of many crosses that have been made between Mahonia lomariifolia which has the best leaves of the tribe and M. japonica which has the best scent. The original plant still grows in the Savill Gardens and is 14ft high and almost as wide, Mahonias flourish in sun or ~ usefully - in quite deep shade and need little attention apart from a thick mulch once a year.

The three most important guardians of Britain's historic parks and gardens - The National Trust, The Royal Parks and English Heritage - have joined together to set up a three-year programme to train the head gardeners of the future. Unlike other horticultural courses, this modern apprenticeship will lay great emphasis on the disappearing skills and craftsmanship which are essential in the maintenance of

historic gardens.
Twelve apprentices, most of them between the ages of 16 and 21, bave already been recruited. The first year involves 10 weeks of intensive course work at Cannington College, Somerset and 39 weeks of practical gardening in one of the properties looked after by the organisations that are sponsoring the scheme.

Jun Marsball, one of the National Trust's garden advisors said "This training in traditional garden crafts is essential if we hope to equip tomorrow's gardeners with the necessary skills."

For further information about the scheme, which is designed to redress the present lack of workhased training, contact John McKennall, Vocational Training and Development Advisor, The National Trust Cornwall Regional Office, Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall PL30 4DE (01208

Angus White of Architectural Plants, Nuthurst, Horsham, West Sussex is baving a monster Winter Sale, with 20 per cent off the price of all plants and terracotta pots. There is a fabulous selection of plants at the nursery: ferns for cool conservatories, palms, spiky cordylines, fat juicy echeverias. White - as the name of the nursery suggests - is only interested in plants with presence. Architectural Plants is open Mon-Sat (9am-5pm). For further details phone 01403 891772. The sale continues until the end of January.



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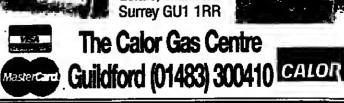
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all consuming

Under the counter with Lindsay Calder

Carmen get it

T his morning in an hour in make-up the locker room I and rollers? Then noticed that the again, it may just be woman who has daily an attempt to personal training rejuvenate body and from Carl also has marriage, but that's far too boring. two HRT patches.

Now my preferred At least, I assume that's what they option: she is a were. You don't stick career woman, but has been a martyr to the Nicorette ones her profession, has on your buttocks, do never had time for you? At first I thought they might lovers, and now, at have been someone that bormonal turning-point in her else's soggy com plasters that she had life, finds herself inadvertently sat on alone and fed up whilst drying with being cast as the firm headmistress. between her toes. but they did seem to This lady has finally decided to get hig be clinging on with hair and go for it: some purpose. I am more than patches, panties,

press-ups, the works. mildly curious about If you can't quite her, but can only face the patches and build up a picture the panties yourself, go for the Carl and Carmens option. from the facts before me: her choice of underwear (unsuitable), the Carl, or a similar Mulberry bag that model, is available she stuffs her from most gyms at trainers into (a little around £20 a session and Carmen rollers extravagant), a Donna Karan (surprisingly, not trouser suit (not just exclusively available DNKY) and today from car boot sales) there was something are still being made else: Carmen rollers. and can be found at Well, the buttock most department

patches give away stores. her age, and if you The standard plastic set of 20 costs tie these in with the £14.99; a thicker, undies (which barely rubberised set. cover them) what are £21.99; Carmen the options? Divorcée getting all Elite, £24,99. And, if you are after really HRT'd up and thongy ready for big hair. Carmen some action? Or an Elite Jumbo costs £29.99. office affair - hence the staminaimproving sessions with Carl every

Perhaps they could come up with a natty little portable set for morning, followed by

Agony of eggstasy

Why Easter's here, by Debbie Davis

magine a world where one celebration runs into another, and your favourite season lasts for ever. If this sounds like nirvana then you can see it for yourself next week, as Easter meets the tail end of Christmas on supermarket shelves. Safeway starts selling Easter eggs on Monday and the other major supermarkets will follow suit before the end of January. You have 72 days in which to buy.

If you like periods of abstinence in your consumer heaven, you may won-der at this need to launch Easter so early. A Safeway spokesperson said the supermarket chain responds to customer demand. "We are all busy people; our customers may want to buy Easter eggs as part of their normal shop."

But Judy Fenn, a shopper emerging from the Reading branch of Safeway, did not agree. "I haven't taken my holly down yet." she protested.

Mars Confectionery sides with the supermarkets. The company contends that since we buy £330m-worth of confectionery during Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Easter Sunday, it helps to be able to spread our shopping,

physically and financially.

This theory lacks plausibility. Say you buy eggs 10 weeks early. No, darlings, they're not for eating yet. You put them in the hiding place that failed you at Christmas. The eggs disappear but the children reassure you; there are still nine weeks to buy them again. Next time you put them in the garage. The week before Easter you go out there and find the eggs sitting in a pool of leaked paraffin. You throw them out and start again. This time you arrive at the eggs section to see Easter sold out.

The reality is that almost all eggs are bought at the last minute. Richard Frost, Cadbury's head of public relations, says: "Easter doesn't have the same dynamics as Christmas. It's a oneproduct occasion, with 80 per cent of eggs bought just before Easter Sunday."

So why do supermarkets take up valuable shelf space with a product they know isn't going to sell for weeks? And why is Easter on the shelves as the same time as Valentine's Day and Mother's

Day, both of which fall before it?
Two theories emerge. Mintel, the market research company, finds that Easter helps consumers to come out of their post-Christmas hibernation. The earlier this swing occurs, the better.

Robert East, professor of consumer behaviour at Kingston Business School in Surrey, agrees that holidays such as Easter have a powerful control over spending. "The associations of Easter are all pleasant," he says. "Eggs could he part of giving the store a nicer feel, in the same way that the smell of freshly baked bread makes it more attractive.

Mintel's research supports the second theory, put forward by an independent grocer who did not want to he named. Supermarkets know that food sales plummet after Christmas; eggs help to fill the shelves, and don't have to be paid for until after Easter. In fact, a confectionery huyer described to Mintel how he has to fight off confectionery salesmen, who see the supermarkets as stock-holders for their product.

By extending the selling period for Easter eggs, supermarkets give the manufacturers an advantage over other

tiating a deal. Neil Mason, of Mintel, says, "The margins on Easter eggs are higher than on other chocolate products. Shoppers may trade up, and spend more on eggs than if they were buying boxed chocolates, for example."

Consumers are certainly vulnerable to manipulation. Three out of four shoppers enter the supermarket without a shopping list. Jeff Harris, of the research company Harris International, describes them as arriving semi-comatose. But he adds: "Supermarkets fail to sell to their customers all the things they could have, partly because they clutter the shelves with things like Easter eggs when no one is huying them,"

Supermarkets, however, are careful with their shelf space. Efficient Conconfectionery and gift lines, and sumer Response (ECR) is the latest strengthen their own hand when nego- American formula which helps super- supermarket, managements risk inform- eclipse the Easter displays.

markets to have as little product as possible at any one time in their supply chains. They order stock io small amounts, not once a week, but daily. For some products, supermarkets are proposing twice-, even thrice-daily deliveries. One wonders whether shelf fillers will start to outnumber customers.

ME KIPLING.

At home, ECR would mean one pint from the milkman in the morning. A request for rice pudding would trigger sending someone out for another pint. Only when football is rained off and your son arrives home with half the team do you huy six pints from the supermarket. Will the family notice you've been making efficient consumer res-ponses all day? Will they care? But at

least you won't have wasted any milk.

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The purpose here is to respond to our need to be cheered up, rather than our need to buy. Io this scenario, supermarket shelves leave nothing to chance by putting a little of everything on the shelves. Of course, you cao always derail the information-obsessed supermarket manager. Next time you fill in an application form for a spy card, do as my menopausal, childless friends do. Say you are married, aged 21, with four childreo. Then watch nappies

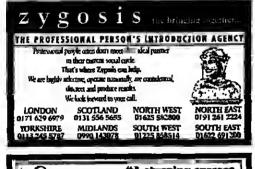
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n/s, scilve, onjoys - Mozari & rugby seeks: homeloving guy (20-35) to share life, love & laughter. Photo please. (Enexx). Box No rs874. SWEET FEMALE WITH elmple tastes, Into Zen, Oxford area, seeks an essygoing man in his 30s/40h, Phote approduted. Box No I:1875. No 1:1875. CLASSIC 1968 MODEL, good run-ner, well-maintained, loves the open road. Needs careful lady owner. Cumbria, Box No 1:1876.

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operat, running restaurants, cur-rent attains, Whales to meet a tady, ege unimportant, for uncompli-cated fun & pieseurs. London Herta Bucka Birmingham. Box No 1-1519. 4:1818.

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BI GUY MIDLANDS 33 medium build 5:10° insop male to male WLTM elmiler guy. Box No.1:1884.

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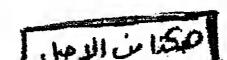
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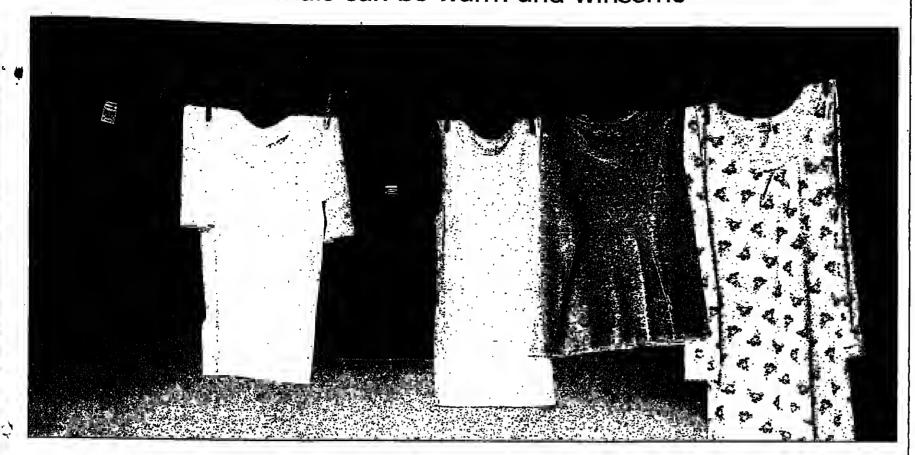
AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if such said Cardificate is granted as pione-

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if such said Cardican is granted as slow-said Scaton 86 of the said Act shall apply to the said premises from the day of the date of the grant of such said Cardicane on Mondays to Salundary of etch and every week floot days inclusived with a terminal hour of 2.00 am. ANY gersters is tending to oppose the application for the grant of a Special Hours Cardicate in respect of these permises shall give notice in writing of his intentions to the applicant and to the Cardical to the permises the grounds of that opposition not here than seven days before the custom exercisence of the abovementoned Carteral Annual Licensing Meeting.

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hermal underwear may conjure up thoughts of your grannies big kniekers, but now sexy undies have to be thermal. From lace trims to satin straps thermals today are anything but dowdy. The traditional labels are producing some of the hest designs. Companies like Damart are striking it

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boldly with red and Hanros' lacy cream vests are too nice to be worn just as underwear. Wear all of the above with a little cardi or under a strappy dress for a warmer winter look.

Above: Red long sleeve thermal top, £11.99, by Damart, 235 Regent Street, London W1, and branches nationwide (enquiries 01274 510000). Below: Red thermal long johns, £11.99, by Damart, as before.

Above: Cream short slceve thermal top with lace trim, £69.50, by Hanro, available from Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (enquiries 0171-245 6231). Below: Cream thermal long johns, £55, by Hanro, as before.

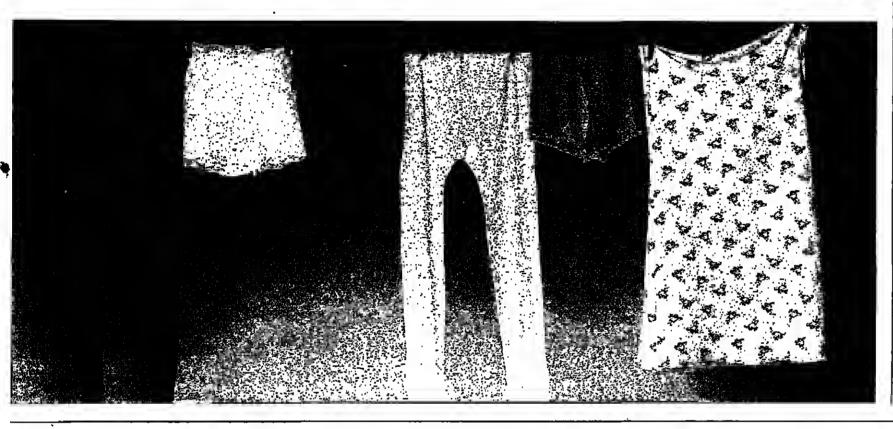
Above: Black thermal vest with salin straps, £17.99, by Damart, as before. Below: Black thermal knickers with lace trim, £10.99, by Damart, as before.

Above: Cream sleeveless vest with satin hias trim, £36.50, by Hanro, as before. Below: Cream thermal knickers with lace trim, £49.50, by Hanro, as before.

5 Above: Grey long 5 sleeve thermal top, £12,99, by Knickerbox, 467 Oxford Street, London W1 and branches nationwide (enquiries 0171-284 1744). Below: Grey thermal knickers, £7,99, by Knickerbox, as before.

6 Above and below: 6 Cherub print nightic, £29.95, by Knickerbox, as before.

Stylist: Holly Davies Photos: Tony Buckingham



Adwatch Look who's talking

By Meg Carter

t may be good to talk, but latest research for BT has shown that the more it spends on advertising, the more negative its public profile. Which is why those watching TV over Christmas and the New Year will have seen the telephone giant perfecting a new public face – meticulously in tune with the caring, sharing Nineties.

"Social responsibility" is the latest marketing wheeze. Businesses and organisations - from Tesco to the Co-Operative Bank - urge us not only to buy their goods and services, but like and respect their values, too. The new commercials fcature a sequence of apparently unrelated images of people and experiences, such as a wedding party and a small boy listening to his pregnant mother's swollen tummy. At first glance it could be an ad for anything. Hanson, maybe. or Midland Bank. But no. it's for one of Britain's largest advertisers: BT - a company hetter known for persuading us to spend more time (and money) on the phone than earing ahout others. Its aim? To position itself as a responsible corporate citizen.

"It is BT's view that corporate reputation will be increasingly important in the future," says Jeremy Miles, group account director at BT's advertising agency. "Already, it is a feature which distinguishes BT from other telecoms operators." Trouble is, no-one knows it.

According to Jackie Kavanagh.

head of corporate campaigns at BT: "People increasingly expect companies to play a more active role in society." Aside from charitable donations, BT has worked with local communities on a range of economic regeneration initiatives, she claims – not to mention joh creation and schools support. "The time is coming when good products and services alone just won't be enough."

BT has a number of different

strands to its gargantuan advertising campaign, Miles explains. There are ads to encourage us to phone abroad and ads to woo small husinesses. Then there are ads to promote its numerous discount packages – like Friends and Family, for which a new commercial featuring former cast members from EastEnders broke last Monday. Previous stars, including the faces behind Dirty Den, Arthur, Sharon and Michelle,

arrange a reunion. And, perhaps most memorahly, there are ads to encourage us 'It's good to talk'. The company even funded its own TV programme to promote better telephone communication – the show. Now We're Tulking hosted by Philip Schofield, went out on ITV a fortnight ago.

The new social responsibility campaign, however, is something else. Internal research for BT suggests people are beginning to get fed up with BT ads. And small wonder: latest industry estimates suggest the company spends more than £150m on advertising each year. The good causes push may cust a mere snip at £2m, but BT sees it as a critical investment – to stem a negative trend before it really catches on.

Anecdotal evidence suggests widespread surprise at BT's change in advertising tack, according to Miles. As for whether it's achieving the desired effect - well, jt's just 100 soon to say. However, companies like BT eager to raise the profile of their corporate conscience have to tread carefully. For while the Nineties consumer expects businesses to accept a degree of social, community or environmental responsibility, they also increasingly treat any advertising or marketing communication with a generous dose of healthy scepticism.

BT's size and market dominance is a particular obstacle which must be overcome, it seems. Does such an obvious market leader really need to advertise so heavily? Jo Smith, a 27 year-old PA working in Finchleyf, North London thinks not. "If it's such a good corporate citizen, why doesn't it spend less on advertising and cut the cost of calls," she asks.

BT's claims it must advertise heavily to protect its business from growing competition. Recent research conducted for the company shows the British talk one-third less on the phone than their US counterparts – so there's still plenty of room for growth, it adds. However Steve Carpenter, 30, a

management consultant from Rugby, is not entirely convinced. BT's involvement in Now We're Talking was to champion the art of conversation and encourage more effective communication, he points out. "Fine semiments," he comments. "But is it really much more than just another way to get consumers to spend more?"

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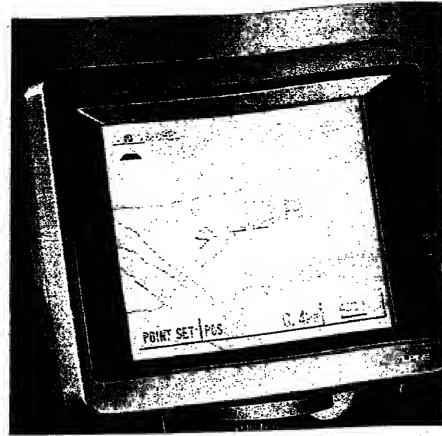
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Digital maps are the key to the success of satellite navigation systems: far left, Bosch's Blaupunkt TravelPilot; left, the Carin system made by Philips; above Alpine Electronics' Route Guidance Navigation system

Show me the way to go home

The heavens know your every move with satellite navigation. By James Ruppert

he road atlas is dead, so throw it away. The future of getting from A to B is now in space, because the latest in-car gizmo is Sat Nav, or satellite navigation. This year's Ford Mondeos and Volkswagen Passats will. if Sat Nav equipped, tell you the quickest way home, or the best way to reach your next business appointment.

Alpine Electronics, Bosch and Philips have all unveiled their own systems in the UK. At their simplest, these only require you to start the engine, select a destination and let the computer do the directing via a synthesised voice and a small monitor near the dashboard for a visual prompt. The key to all this is in the heavens: 24 satellites operate the Global Positioning System - GPS. The information received from them is made even more accurate by wheel sensors and a compass, or gyroscope, fitted to the car. Then, to make sense of all the data, a map stored in a boot-mounted CD-Rom records the

easily heat the satellites on price (around £150) hut are cartographically challenged hecause you have to know where you are at each point. With GPS, the heavens

the key to the systems success. If they are wrong, you will obviously get lost. To see exactly how these work I spent a day on the road with ETAK, a digital mapping company which produces the CD-Roms for the Blaupunkt TravelPilot system made by Bosch. Currently this system has the most comprehensive maps of the country, and it is easy to see why.

Anthony Lewis, co-ordinator for the field data capture teams, has to drive down every single road they are mapping.
"We take the existing Ordnance Survey location of the car and its intended route. Information, which is paper-based maps, You may already have seen (or, indeed, and then digitise it. But you can only do

igator or the Philips Routefinder. These roundabout, where the dead ends are,

that sort of thing."

It has been hard work, but in just nine too well in the UK. months most of the major routes, towns and cities have heen mapped.

know your every move.
Yet never mind the space age satellite
technology, it is the digital maps that are

Using the system could not be simpler.
I slipped behind the wheel of the Mondeo in a grid-locked Hammersmith and turned the key. The GPS told me exactly where I was: Beryl Road, London W6. I decided to go to Hamilton Road. Using a hand-held control pad I needed only to tao in the first few letters before the long list of Hamilton Roads came on to the screen. I scrolled through to find the one in Twickenham that I wanted. The Travel-Pilot thought about it for a few seconds, then told me where to go. A large directional arrow appeared on the LCD screen while a soothing - yet confident - female voice told me to go straight ahead and

then turn right at the next junction.
"People don't like to be told what to do

already have bought) one of the existing CD-Rom or solid-state road navigation that by going out into the real world to by a male voice," Mr Lewis explained. direction" will no longer be a legitimate will he offering their system by the middle of the price. This one we call Kate, which is ETAK excuse. However, there is a catch: the price. gadgets, such as the Psion Personal Nav- flow is, how many exits there are on a hackwards. Originally we had a German lady issuing the instructions, but we had to tell Bosch that it would not go down

> For a moment - though her directions are deliberate and easy to follow - part of the fun was actually ignoring instructions. The voice hecame a little more urgent, telling me to turn around. Then the TravelPilot confidently rerouted me hack to the programmed destination. All the time the idiot-sized arrow on the LCD screen kept pointing the way. There was a distance countdown to the junction, and whilst idling at traffic lights I could look at larger maps to see exactly where I was. A nice touch: when I arrived at Hamilton Road a chequered flag came up on the

> Mr Lewis reckons that it would take no longer than half-an-hour to grasp the system, and in fact just a few seconds of prodding got me to where I wanted to go. Clearly utterances of "I've got no sense of

To fit a Blaupunkt TravelPilot, Philips Carin, or Alpine Route Guidance Navigation system to your existing car will cost £3,000 to £3,500 depending on the model. Remember, though, that CD players and video-recorders cost an arm and a leg when first launched in the Eighties, and industry watchers are convinced that hardware costs will tumble during the next few years.

At the moment the easiest way to enjoy Sat Nav is to buy a hrand-new car with the equipment as an option. Volkswagen's acclaimed Passat will have the Blaupunkt system from summer 1997, when the mapping of the UK has been completed. They reckon it will add £1,500 to the cost of the car.

Ford will also be using this system, but have not committed themselves to a price or introduction date, except to say that it "will he an option on the Mondeo in early 1997". Philips claims that BMW, Range Rover, Mitsubishi, Daewoo and Nissan next to CDs and video players.

Although there isn't much to choose between the three systems, the Blaupunkt is reckoned to have the best mapping, which will cover all the major routes in the UK by the middle of the year. The Philips and Alpine won't be complete until 1998. What Alpine and Philips do have are points of interest such as hotels. The Philips also allows you to programme a route that avoids main roads.

The beauty of these CD-Rom-hased systems is that the digital maps can he easily updated, and provide route guidance in Europe, in English. Travel guide for Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy are now available for the Blaupunkt system.

So the paper road atlas is dead, long live Sat Nav. Except that I wouldn't chuck your A to Z in the hin just yet. Sat Nav is still an expensive executive in-car toy, albeit a very useful one. Wait until Sat

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Keep on truckin' the guzzler returns

By Gavin Green

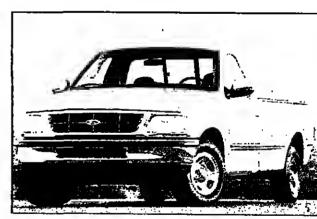
s one famous American writer might have said about one famous American institution: news of the Yank Tank's death has been greatly exaggerated. Sure, the old 20ft long, two-and-a-half ton V8 sedan - which wallowed its way down freeways while guzzling gas - may be almost dead. But in its stead is a vehicle just as hig. just as fuel

thirsty and just as popular. The best selling "car" in America last year (and the vear before, and the year before that) wasn't even a car at all. It was a truck: the Ford F150 pick-up. Last year, Ford sold 78,000 in the USA. Ford already sells more light trucks to private buyers than it does cars in America. It reckons that will be true of the total market soon. Already, three of the four hest-sellers in Amer-

ica are trucks. By trucks, the Americans mean pick-ups, off-roaders, and big people carriers - rather than the hig arties that clog the M25. They're typically sold to private huyers in place of normal cars. Even the Japanese, who made their name in America selling little fuel-sipping hatches at a time when the oil seemed to be running out, are getting in on the act. Every Japanese maker now sells light trucks too. And they're almost as big, thirsty, and mean as the trucks sold by Ford, General

Motors and Chrysler. The oil clearly isn't about to run out. And, as if to celebrate, the Americans are having one hell of a party until somebody finally tells them to start hehaving themselves. With gasoline at \$1.30 a gallon (about 90 pence a gallon or about 20p a litre) there isn't

much incentive to be good. Ford's president, Australianborn Jac Nasser, reckons the popularity of the Ford F150 America's enduring love affair American way of life.



The Ford F150, best-selling "car" in the US last year

with the horse. "There's something wild and outdoory about the pick-up. They're sporty, fast and expressive. The pickup is the nearest thing there is to a horse."

I had a hrief go in a 5.4-litre V8-powered F150 on a recent trip to America, and there's little doubting the appeal: you sit up high, have a tremendously powerful engine at your disposal, and mix sports car performance with commercial vehicle toughness. And it looks great, too, in a macho American sort of way. Sure, you'll be lucky to do 15mpg, but who cares when a refill costs only ahout £15?

Common sense, of course, dictates that driving a "car" that has half its length, and sometimes more, devoted to cargo carrying is dumb. The typical pick-up actually has less cabin space than a family car. But it's fast, cheap (a V8 F150 costs only £9,500), solid, and has great youth-cred. American kids nu longer hanker after Corvettes or Mustangs or Thirds. They want pick-up trucks. And the hrighter the colour, the higger the wheels and tyres, and the larger the motor, the better. Like jcans, T-shirts, branded trainers and dumb haircuts

Personally, I think they're also a reaction against the little Japanese-built - or inspired - batches that Americans were forced to huy, a decade or so ago, hut never liked. The truck is a cheaper, faster, sportier version of the old Yank Tank. But while large sedan sales dipped by a further seven per cent last year, truck sales especially large off-roaders -

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were up by 77 per cent. Many American car makers can't quite believe this popularity, nor can they believe that these mostly crude and technically old-fashioned machines, with their avaricious fuel consumptions have almost singlehandedly repelled the threatened Japanese invasion of their market. Most forecast an eventual downturn in their appeal. All it needs is a big hike in the price of fuel and they could be history.

expecting a fuel price hike for years. Despite carbon dioxide emission promises, fashionable green politics. Rio summits and a Democratic president, it's never happened. Taxing fuel more is politically unacceptable in America. It constitutes a tax on mobility. Which means folks can keep on huying their trucks and other pick-ups is due to they've become part of the and to hell with those little ittyhitty foreign cars.

dance Navigation system

will be a from the formation

returns



Hot property: how to get it

Insulate wisely instead of just freezing your budget, says Penny Jackson

ing over the gaps in the window frame and turning old socks into draught excluders may well have kept the icy blasts at bay and won it is unlikely to have done much for the heating hills.

It is the sight of meters racing that prompts most of us to get to grips with the insulation of our homes. Before the next cold snap, we promise ourselves, everything will be checked, serviced and in order. Indeed, British Gas was inundated with calls a week ago, but as the weather warms, so the urgency diminishes. Anyone living in a new house should be enjoying state-ofthe-state insulation, since all homes are built to high levels of energy effi-

ciency under building regulations. consideration among new-home buyfall in love with a period property that ing at night when temperatures fall dows," says John Fidler, head of eats fuel. There is a still a certain reseats fuel. There is a still a certain res-

here are probably more than a ignation, pride even, among those long to reach the correct tempera- are very good systems for sash winfew people who resorted to who live in draughty old country ture the next day." recent freezing spell. Stuffing scarves bar piling on the jumpers and putting into the jaws of the letter flap, stick- another log on the fire. The heating lost on those still fighting the draught. It is not always system seems to do little more than take the chill off. Paying for the warm air to disappear under the doors is. as they see it, a fool's game. But you some Blue Peter brownic points, but don't have to live in rural splendour to feel defeated by attempts to keep a house warm within a hudget nor to discover that the simplest, and not necessarily the most expensive, meth-

ods can be the best. The advice Tina Lewis is giving to British Gas customers who have seen their hills rocket is familiar but, she finds, needs repeating. Insulate roofs and, where necessary, cavity walls. Don't put radiators under windows or behind curtains and large pieces of furniture. Check settings on the boiler and thermostats and have the system serviced reguency under building regulations. | larly. "Many people don't under-Even so, insulation is not a prime stand how their controls work and they are often set incorrectly. It is a ers, any more than it is for those who false economy to turn off the heat-

hattle on the window and door fronts. Double or secondary glazing is likely to be in the first wave of attack, but here, double-glazing sales talk can be so much bot air. How much does it really save on fuel hills? According to English Heritage, only 20 per cent of heat is lost through windows, most of that through gaps in the frame not the single pane of glass. The other 80 per cent is lost through unlagged roofs and uninsulated floors and walls. Houses with ventilated timber floors and open chimneys lose far more heat and admit far stronger

draughts than even the poorest fitting windows and doors. English Heritage calculates that putting in double glazing in an old house is rarely economical and that the payback period on heating bills could take anything from 20 to 60 vears. "Far better to renovate and draught-proof the lovely old windows," says John Fidler, head of

dows now. One even has a gadget for above freezing. panic measures during the homes that there is little to be done However, discussing the finer the inward opening of the window

insulation. Heating engineers will always advise on upgrading or installing a system and British Gas have an advisory service based on a questionnaire. For a wide-ranging survey, the National Energy Services energy rating scheme for a fee between £50 and £120.

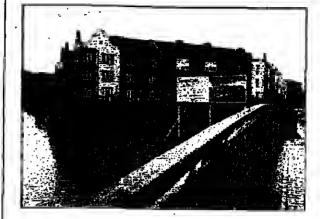
The Buildings Research Establishment finds that plumbing problems are the higgest headache during cold weather. Last winter, there were well over 200,000 claims for burst pipes alone and the cost of repair is out of all proportion to the cost of protection. The main misperception is that insulation prevents pipes freezing, says Peter Trotman, head of advisory services. No amount of insulation on pipes will prevent them freezing if the building is unheated. The insulation only

He says that it is important to check that pipes are laid well within exactly where a house needs extra wall. Also, during cold weather, anyone leaving an unheated building for more than 24 hours should drain the

The annual flood of advice about how we can hest cope with icy weather still surprises those more send out assessors under their home competent in freezing conditions. A German resident of London was not only amazed that an apology from Thames Water about the delay in dealing with frozen pipes was newsworthy, but that so many people were caught out. "I can tell people don't know how to handle ice and snow by the state of their garden paths. In Germany, if you don't clear the pavement in front of your home and someone slips and injures themselves, they can sue you." Perhaps it is just as well that we only have the plumber's bill to worry about.

National Energy Services 01908 slows down the escape of heat and during very cold weather, water from Association 01428 654011

Focus on the Midlands The road to prosperity



nly now are the effects of the M40 being felt in the west Midlands market. Prices in the area between Banbury and Warwick have risen over the past year to match those of the late Eighties, when premotorway hype reached a peak. But by the time the M40 opened in 1991, the recession was biting hard and bouse prices in prime spots fell by 40 per cent over four years. Ian McConnel, of

Savills' Banbury office, has

seen the market improve enormously in the last year - a delayed reaction to the M40, as he puts it. Country house prices south of Birmingham have seen the same sort of South-east - in the region of 10 to 15 per cent. Here, and in the Cotswolds, London money is pushing up prices. For an undiscovered area that offers value for money and good access to London, lan McConnel suggests looking between Northampton and Coventry, Cala Homes, one of the developers in take off since Christmas. Towns such as Malvern and pretty villages such as Henley-in-Arden - where the company is building in the centre - have seen enormous interest. The more conservative Midlands market has been slower to warm, though, to its award-winning Californian-type houses near Birmingham.

The inward migration of people and business that the West Midlands is seeing is also being felt in other areas where the motorway network has been extended. Large railheads are being built to speed up distribution and as companies move in, certain towns will begin to see new development. Quentin Jackson-Stops, of

Jackson-Stops & Staff, gives Kettering in the east Midlands as an example of a town seeing the benefits of the A14 which extends the M6 eastwards to join up with the MI and on to the ports. It has also affected prices in villages close to the new road. An old rectory in Catworth sold quickly and for more than the asking price because it is only a mileand-a-half away. "New roads bring about a levelling out of values. Of course, they can also become victims of a road's success.

Keith McEwan, chairman of the northern division of David Wilson Homes, sees a keen interest in new homes in the market towns around Leicester. "A first-time huver can find a threebedroomed semi-detached house in north-west Leicestershire in the low £40,000s, whereas close to Leicester city it would be in the mid-£50,000s. Also, the company's conversion of an old hospital, St James Park, near Radeliffe-on-Trent, is popular as it bas mixed throughout 90 acres of grounds. All city centre developments are in very short supply, and as more people choose to move closer to their work, the houses get snapped up quickly. Crosby Homes has sold almost all its 143 homes at Symphony Court (above) in the beart of Birmingham. Some 40 per cent have gone to doctors and lawyers."

The latest figures from the Halifax show that in the final quarter of 1996, the West Midlands saw increases of 3.5 per cent, second only to Greater London, whereas the East Midlands, at 1 per cent, were among the lowest

Penny Jackson

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A change of heart

The Parsons were looking for a semi, but ended up with a boat. By Rosalind Russell

ennifer and Donald Parsons provide are a classic case - house hunters who give a detailed brief. to an estate agent and end up buy-ing something different. Preparing for retirement, the couple had decided to sell their Kent home and look for a smaller house, perhaps near water and with a decent piece of land around it. A couple of years passed, but nothing

"Then one day we had a trip to Hen-ley and got talking to some people who lived on narrow boats," says Jennifer. "It changed our lives."

The Parsons booked a holiday on a narrow boat and read every available piece of information about them. Then they rang Calcutt Maclean to say their search was over... and commissioned a Devizes boatyard to build them a 50ft

"It'll be ready in March and we're setting off to travel around some of Britain's 2,000 miles of canals. It's a great way to see the countryside without the pressure of traffic on the roads.

old four-hedroom semi in Petts Wood. The new boat will have a fitted kitchen, a bathroom and a sitting room with a woodburning stove. A name has yet to be decided upon. Donald wanted to call

will he all roses and may take a while to settle down. You can pay up to £80,000 for a narrow boat, hut ours is more basic. You can have washing machines and tumble driers but I think that rather

who have stipulated a period cottage in the country, but who have eventually bought a newly built townhouse," says one weary agent. "When people realise they may have to compromise, often it forces a complete rethink. Or the practice little little is " ticalities kick in."

In James Boucher's case, the practicalities kicked out. Having sold their flat in London very quickly, he and wife Gail



cash buyers for a substantial period house in Kent. Agents Calcutt Maclean were enlisted to find the dream home and the Bouchers moved into a rented cottage for what they thought would be a brief stay.

Two years later they were still there.

"We were looking for a four- or five-

hedroom period house, possibly listed and with a lot of character and with up to three acres of land," says James.
"There was just nothing for sale. One house we were keen on fell through. One of the houses we went for was on at £235,000 and went to best and final offers at £275,000. In the end, my wife was annoyed and I was frustrated. So I gave up and thought to hell with it, I'll buy a

of the car. Ho hum.

ment out of the car than a house. But we've just exchanged contracts on a house for less than £300,000 - my max-

The Bouchers bave bought a yeoman's ball house with a 1950s extension ... but

cent of house sales which fall through do

so not just because of a dodgy survey, but because of a change of heart. One family buying a terraced house in Barnet rang the agent on the day of exchange, to say they would not be signing after all. They had been back to the house that morning and measured the width of the hall. They would not, said the head of the household, he able to wheel his son's motorbike through to the back garden.

The deal was off. Anthony Cane, of Strutt & Parker, always maintained that if you work in London, it is sensible to live as near as possible. He would never, ever, buy a bouse in the country and become a commuter. The Cane family now owns a newly renovated farmhouse in 30 acres

of Devon countryside. The house in London was sold and a flat bought for weeksaid 'never in your wildest dreams'."

Before Sue and Anthony Cane bought

Best of three with a room



Cobweb Cottage is a stone-built home situated on Stourton Hill in Warwickshire. Standing on the northern edge of the Cotswolds, it bas views for miles across the valley. The property includes two outside studios as well as the three-bedroomed semi-detached cottage, and has gardens enclosed by dry-stone walls. It is for sale through Knight Frank (01865 790077) for £180,000.

They won't miss the comforts of their

defeats the object.'

with a view



it Miss Piggy but Jennifer favours Andante, the musical term meaning walking pace, which is the speed the boat moves at. They may compromise on Porcillus – Latin for female piglet.

There is a great community spirit among those who live on narrow boats; people stop and talk. I don't suppose it

Estate agents, if they are honest, are not immune to a change of heart. "I've lost count of the number of applicants

felt they would be in a strong position as

An Aston Martin DB4 ate up a hearty slice of the money earmarked for the house and the estate agents instructed to downspec the price range. James claims his wife was so relieved be was bappy again, she didn't demur about the cost

"To be honest I get a lot more enjoyimum before buying the car bad been

According to Knight Frank, 16 per

day use. I am London born and hred. When I was 12 my brother and I used to go and watch Chelsea play. If you told me two years ago I would have a house 200 miles from London, living 600ft up with views over Dartmoor, I would have

the property, it was almost derelict. "At least I can't be proved wrong this time," says Anthony. "When huying our last two London houses, I said 'oh tbere's no point in paying for a survey, they are per-fectly all right'. They both turned out to have dry rot. This time the place was in such a state, it had to have everything."

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THE WAR

Tall to Kenga

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There must be a higher than average chance of spotting a monster from Tigh-na-Roinn, a three-bedroomed house with unimpeded views across Loch Ness to the Monadliath mountains. The renovated Forties house, sitting in five acres, comes with the right to keep and use a boat on the loch, and is 30 miles from Inverness. It is for sale through Savills at offers over £150,000 (01356 622187).



Ballowfield, a Grade II-listed four-bedroomed farmhouse, plus cottage is in Wensleydale, north Yorkshire, with views to the river Ure. There is planning permission to convert a workshop into a two-bedroom annexe, £295,000, through GA Town & Country (01969 623451).

We marshalled eight families for a council of war

Daniel Butler on defeating the planning agents

magine the horror: a letter arrives one beautiful May morning informing you that a developer wants to plonk 20 caravans next to your isolated dream home. Escaping from neighbours was one of the main reasons for our purchasing a Welsh smallholding, three miles from the nearest town. Now suddenly a small village of transient tourists might be planted 50 yards from our front door.

Not that the idea came completely out of the blue. Our surveyor had warned us planning permission had once been granted for chalets on the adjacent field. Consent had lapsed long before we arrived, however, and the ludicrous development costs convinced us it could never go ahead. Now the possibility was here to haunt us again - this time scaled down to a more affordable (but equally unacceptable) scheme.

We sat staring at the letter in a state of mile of new road - although there was no disbelief. Once the immediate shock had passed, we rallied ourselves. Along with its clinical description of the scheme, the letter invited us to talk to the planning officer. I phoned immediately and found him extremely helpful. He explained that even though this scheme would not have been passed were it an original idea, the fact that consent had once been granted tied his hands. As an amended plan it could only be turned down on the hardest of pragmatic grounds. He also warned us that legally his brief was to "facilitate development wherever possible" and it was not for him to find stumbling blocks.

The public file didn't tell us much, hut it was clear that even in the Eighties the planners had been worried about access and had insisted on the construction of a everyone was urged to write in stressing

mention of this in the new plans. There were also inaccuracies - such as claiming the availability of mains water - and a vague mention of septic tanks, even though these were specifically harred in the original scheme.

We marshalled eight neighbouring families for a council of war and invited along local counciliors. To our dismay we found the strong opposition was tempered with large doses of resignation: "Money talks Wales." muttered one. "And money is something they must surely have."

Talking the issue through, however, we gathered further useful snippets of local gossip about water courses, badger runs and rights of way. Armed with this and our researches at the planning office,

practical reasons why the development should not go ahead. Picking up on the planners' own concerns, we would stress the question of access. Within a week the surprised planning department was del-uged with complaints.

The critical weapon in our armoury proved the new access road. By carefully analysing the route, we discovered that consent from four local landowners was needed - hut there was no mention of this in the confident wording of the plans. Remembering the council has to accept an application at face value unless concrete information to the contrary is available, we fired off another barrage of letters.

As a result, the planning officer wrote to the developer asking for documentary evidence that the access road could really be huilt. Crucially it was at this stage that he demanded official consent forms signed by the landowners - something which would inevitably force the devel-

opers to begin forking out serious money.
That was August. Suddenly everything seemed to go into cold storage while we waited for news. For four months we held our breath, wondering if they would find enough money to buy off our farmers. In spite of the solidity of popular opposition, we were worried "every man has his price".

And then came the good news - the plans were being "withdrawn" while alternative access was considered. It appeared that at least one of the landowners had held firm and refused to sell. This was tempered by the knowledge that at least technically the plans were only shelved and might be re-submitted at any moment. With our new found understanding of the

planning laws, we knew this would mean the fight could pick up where it had begun the 1988 precedent was still there.

Lessons have been learned, however, and we are confident that we would he able to defeat developers again with letters and attention to the minutiae of planning detail.

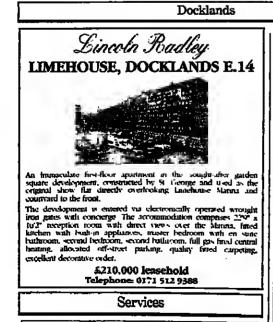
Fortunately it may not come to this: a local farmer has been asked if he is interested in purchasing the site by the developer. No doubt the asking price will be well above its agricultural value, hut while none of us wants five acres of scrappy pasture with no water supply, it just could be worth it. Even at double the market value, after six months of sleepless nights and hours wasted in the planning department, £7,500 suddenly doesn't seem so steep for peace of mind.

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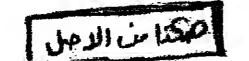
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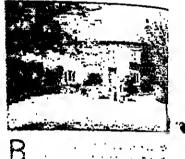
Best of three with a room with a view



Onwer Contage is a stone-hull be Situated on Scientific Hilling Airwickshire. Standing on the name of the Cotswolds. If his very refers across the sailer. The property neludes two enterde studies when three-test mass semi-death attleger and has jurdens enclosed dry-stone walls, his for sale through Knight Frank 10 And Tolling for



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e all know – or should do by now - that we are living through one of the great bull markets of this century. But how abnormal is it, and what

are the implications for investors? One man who has dared to try and put the current bull market in its long-term global context is Dr Sandy Nairn, who runs the Edinhurgh office of the Templeton fund management group. By analysing the performance of the Morgao Stanley world stock market index from 1954 until the present, he has produced some ascinating new data ahout the length and magnitude of market cycles in the post-war period.

His definition of a bear marker is one in which the market indices fall by 15 per cent or more, measured from peak to trough. On that hasis, we have lived through eight bull markets and seven bear runs in the last 42 years.

Taking the period as a whole, the average length of a hull market over the period has been just under four years; the average bear market about one quarter as long.

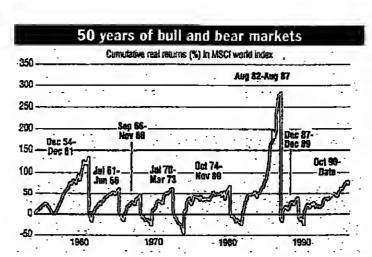


average have produced a real (post-inflation) return to investors of 103 per cent and the bear phases a loss of 26 per cent.

By and large, hull markets ruo and double investors' money in real terms. The succeeding bear market tends to last a year and costs generated an average real return of investors a quarter of their wealth 31.5 per cent per annum.

For most of us, bear markets have to be endured if the fruits of the bull market beyond are to be enjoyed. In other words, no pain, no gain

Similarly, the bull markets on in real terms. The averages of course conceal some striking differences in performance. The most savage bear market was that between 1973 and 1974, when world stock markets lost 48 per cent in real four times as long as bear markets terms. The strongest bull market was the five-year one that ran from mid-1982 to the crash of 1987. It



صكنا من الاعل

Where does that leave the present hull market? According to Dr Nairn, the current upward trend in the stock market has now run for more than six years, since October,

That makes it either the longest or the second longest bull market since the war, depending on how precisely you measure the stock market rally in the mid 1950s, since 1990 - just over 80 per cent

when the data is less reliable. What is not in doubt is that if the world index carries on climbing until the end of 1997, it will have earned for sure the accolade of being the longest global hull mar-

ket of the post-war period. But it will still not be the most dramatic bull market we have known. The cumulative real return

- still lags that recorded in the market booms of the mid-1950s and the mid-1980s (134 per cent and 302 per cent respectively). Just as interesting is the fact that, while the 1987 crash is still etched in most investors' minds as the worst setback in recent memory, hindsight places it as more of a concentrated correction to a previously overheated market than a climactic break with the long-term

Dr Nairn is careful to point out that history provides no guarantee to the future, at least in any mechanistic sense. But for anyone who helieves that markets are rational in the long run (as Templeton and many other so-called value investors do), the implication has to be that a bear market will arrive in due course - and probably sooner rather than later, if the length of the current hull phase is anythiog to go by. We just don't know when. A gloomy prospect?

Not necessarily.

Anyone who has a strong balance sheet and sufficient spare funds to pick up the hargains that

the hear market will inevitably throw up should be well placed to henefit from it. Doing just that was how Sir John Templeton made his

millions in a 40 year investment Dr Nairn puts it: "Every hear market has always heen followed by a bull market which has been more rewarding than the bear

market which preceded it." What be means is that, for anyone lacking the skill or luck to call the turns in the market as they happen, bear markets have to be endured if the fruits of the hull

market beyond are to he enjoyed. In the 42-year period looked at by Dr Nairn, holding casb would have produced only a tenth of the gain in wealth available from being invested in shares throughout.

But if you had invested a regular sum in Templeton's main growth fund every month since 1954, there has not been one five year period when the stock market would not have produced an overall positive real return. That is the case for patient, long-term equity

After the windfall, where do we save?

Clifford German reports on a tempting campaign

atioowide, the largest huilding society still committed to remain-ing a mutual society, has chosen the week when millions of members of the Halifax are counting their windfall share honuses to remind them of what they will be giving up if they stay with their henefactors once they have hecome banks.

Just to remind them, the Nationwide is opening a free helpline for anyooe with a building society account to remind them what rate they are getting on their savings and what they could be getting elsewhere. The helpline will connect callers to a real person who will help to identify precisely what account the caller holds with which society, whether it is a postal account or a telephone account, instant access or notice account, and will then check the current rate for the balance the caller holds, and then compare it with the best rate Nationwide offers for an identical

This is partly a labour of love because research by NOP shows that although 73 per cent of savers with mooey in a huilding society say the rate of interest they get is important to them, 82 per cent of all investors do oot actually know what that rate of interest is. Some 36 per cent never check what rate they are getting and another 28 per cent admit to checking once a year or less.

The helpline is specially targeted at younger (and busier?) savers and at women, because the research shows that only 7 per cent of individuals aged between 35 and 44 know exactly what ioterest they are getting compared with 26 per cent of over-65s, while only 10 per cent of women know compared with 24 per cent of meo. Make of that what

But there is a cutting edge to the campaign as well. It is targeted at tempting savers away from the big building societies as soon as they have handed over their share allocations. Most of the societies converting to banks are able to pay poor rates to savers who are are obliged to keep their money on deposit to qualify for shares, and dare not take their money away, bowever poor the current return.



obliged to geocrate profits for their shareholders by charging higher rates on mortgages and paying lower rates on savings, but savers will he free to move ter rates, says Philip Williamson, their money, and substantial sums could

Nationwide claims that the interest it pays oo its own accounts is on average 0.75 per ceot higher than most of its main high street competitors across a range of key products.

The comparisons are based on the top 30 financial institutions, a definitioo which includes the Londoo and Scottish-hased clearing banks, the six or eight huilding societies which have already converted or been taken over and those which are preparing to do so. It does not oecessarily include the

Ooce the free shares have been smaller surviving local huilding societies handed over, converting societies will be who are still committed mutuals and will also tend of pay higher rates on a num-

> "Millions are missiog out oo our better rates," says Philip Williamson, the Nationwide's marketing and commer-

> "We are particularly hoping to reach investors with converting huilding societies, many of whom have been locked in accounts which pay less than competitive rates of interest for two years or more while they make sure of qualifying for free shares."

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#Source: Micropal, Based on a UK savings account for investments of £2,500 and over, 10 years to 2,9.96. Full written details are available on request. Any financial advice given will relate only to the products of GA Life.

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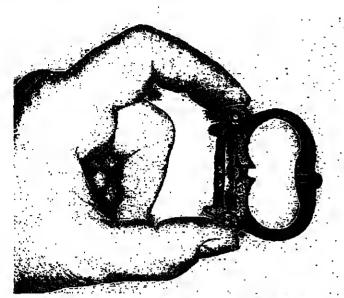
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Old and decorative but very cheap

Collect to invest: Buckles unearthed by metal detectors are worth picking up, says John Windsor



A knight's sword belt buckle, 1400-1450, worth about £20

Teos of thousands of accessories. them, lost in fields and rivers

Antique dealer Nigel be vague, because so little
by nobles and peasants Mills, who trades in the was known about them. Now detector eothusiasts. With

be a circular copper alloy buckle, perhaps from a veoman's shoe, still with its iron wire pin, the size of a mod-

orative metal buckles showing changing styles -very old but very cheap - from medieval times to are the latest collectable. A about 1800. After that date lives in Torbay, Devon. Hithmere 50p will huy you one buckles hecame plain and erto, drawings of buckles in dating as far hack as 1250. functional, no longer fashioo history books, even histories

down the centuries, are Monday morning market at historians and collectors can being unearthed by metal Loodoo's Covent Garden, hrowse through his book's says: "Buckles are fascinatthe exception of old coins, that everybody has owned that everybody has owned since early medieval times.

The exception of old coins, that everybody has owned since early medieval times.

The exception of old coins, the exception of old coins, that everybody has owned since early medieval times.

The exception of old coins, the excepti be passed down the generalost in medieval times can still be worn."

ern 5p piece. For £5-£10

The first guide book on you could make up a sel of half a dozen buckles from lished. Its author is Ross

The first guide book on ploughed field is that it is a prices — for complete, pewter specimen priced £25 undamaged buckles with in the book, in raised open-balf a dozen buckles from lished. Its author is Ross who last worc it, all those patinated surface and pin work with four delicate

oew antique: can there shoes, sword belts, hats. Whitehead, a 31-year-old centuries ago. Coins are not intact – are 50p, £1 and £2. semi-circles and six oval beaded edges. penter with a first class than buckles but they are degree in archaeology, who comparatively expensive of costume, have tended to although perhaps worth £50-£60 to a silver specialist, can

> "Compared with huckles, tions, so even many of those old coins are impersonal. The thrill of digging up a 600-year-old buckle in a

785 photographs and illus-

trations documenting for the

because so many people col-

still he picked up for a fiver or so in a flea market because so few general dealers realise what they are. For a very small outlay you can make a collection of bar-gains from the Middle Ages." oewly liberated aristocracy made a fashion of big, elab-orate ones. By Georgian each of the 785 specimens, times, the nob about town

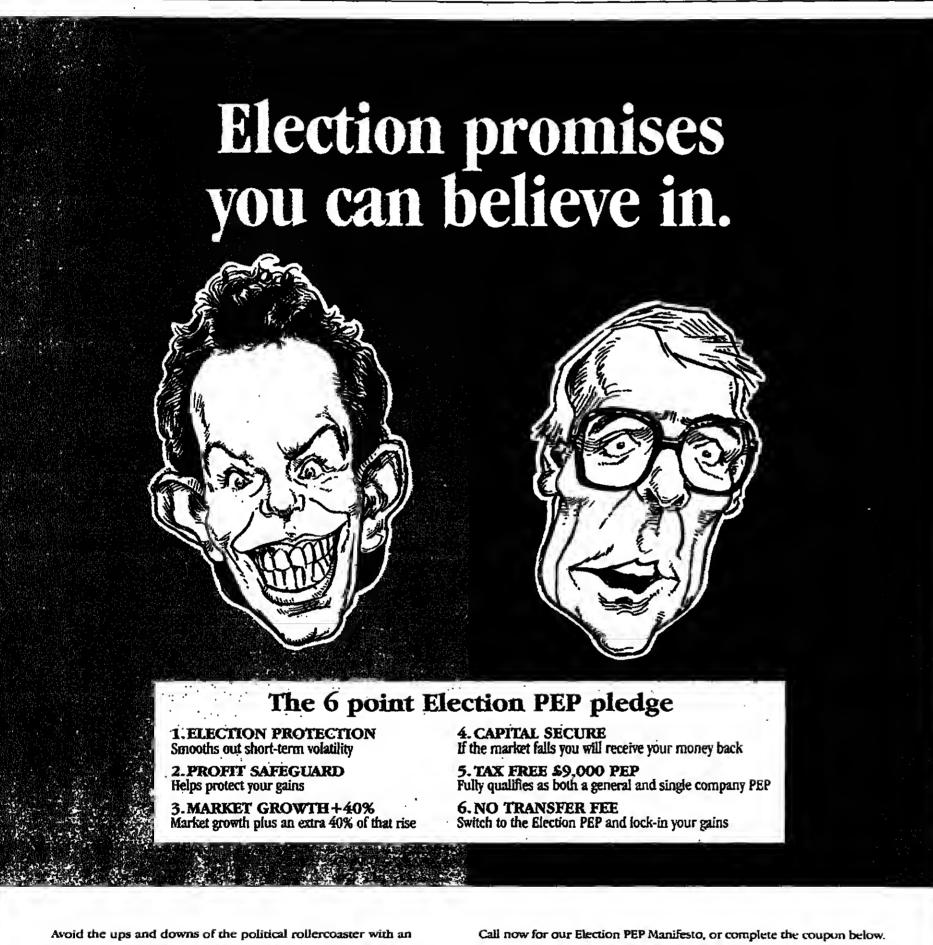
many from his own collection, has been priced by Mr lar shoe buckles such as the Mills. The commonest 1733-1790s 6.5cm wide cast

could buy the sort of ornate medieval upper classes favoured for spurs and "A Georgian silver buckle, sword belts. Priced at £22: a 7cm long brass buckle with engraved scallop-shaped frame dated 1250-1400.

Shoe buckles are the most pleotiful sort of buckle, dal-Charles II in 1660. The oewly liberated aristocracy was wearing huge rectangupewter specimen priced £25

If you think that sounds buckle that the chivalrous expensive, consider the high price of new huckles in Birmingham, which by the latter part of the 18th ceotury was turning out an annual 2.5 million alloy buckles - at a hefty 2s 6d (121/2p each). That is anything from £10-£20 each in ing from the restoration of Charles II in 1660. The ferent from the £20 you might pay today for a well-preserved specimen.

Nigel Mills (0181-504 2569).
"Buckles 1250-1800" by Ross
Whitehead, £10 (inc. p&p)
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loose change

Sun Life of Canada is offering readers a free copy of its Guide 10 Selfessment, which contains easy-to-understand answers to the questions raised by tax self-assessment. It is also offering clients a a telephone-based service which converts tax details into a tax return and a computation of tax due. It costs £75 plus VAT for a single person, £99 plus VAT for a married couple and is available to employed people and pensioners resident in the UK, but not to the self-employed, expats or Lloyd's underwriters! ScotLife Home Loans

with Birmingham & Midshires is offering a discount of 4.24 per cent on the standard variable rate (currently x,xx per cent) fixed uotil the eod of January next year, and a 1 per cent discount for the

following 12 months. It also pays £330 towards legal fees and the survey fee is refunded when the

mortgage takes effect. General Accident Life and West Bromwich Building Society are offering a 3 per cent discount to the current variable rate of 7.25 per cent for the first 12 months plus a 3 per cent cashback up to a maximum of £3,000. Life assurance may be necessary but there is no arrangement fee, and loans up to 90 per cent of valuation are available. Early redemption penalty is 6 per cent in the first six years and one month's interest thereafter.

Sun Life is planning to scrap terminal bonuses on group peosion plans and replace them with higher reversionary - ie annual bonuses io an attempt to provide greater fairness for workers who leave early.

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Windfall time: But new shareholders will have tough choices to make

How to PEP up a handout

Clifford German offers advice on cashing in on the building societies' bonanza

receive shares from one or more of the building societies converting to banks this year, what will you do with the windfall? The chances are that the hulk of the windfall will be saved.

All four societies are issuing sbares, not cash bonuses, and according to a survey carried out for Nikko last year only 16 per cent of the Abbey National shares issued to members of the N&P when it was taken over last August were sold in the following four months.

Many of the bigger windfalls will go to older penple, who have had more money in their accounts for longer periods, and many building society members will not be expert shareholders who know how sell their shares. But even shareholders who are determined to sit tight need to decide pre-cisely how they will hold their shares

pendent, low-cost dealing company set up in 1990, all four societies plan to offer shareholders just three choices. One is simply to sell them at the hest

According to the Share Centre, an inde-

available price in the first few days of dealing, to take advantage of the pent-up

obliged to huy shares to maintain the balance of their portfolios.

حكنات الاعل

The second is to hold the shares and the third is to transfer them free of charge into a single company personal equity plan (PEP) which each of the converting societies will offer. That way shareholders can earn tax-free dividends and the proceeds from subsequent sales will not count as capital gains. (They will of course incur a management charge which may offset the tax saving on holdings worth less than £1,000 or so, so do your sums first).

The Inland Revenue has however agreed that any amount of free shares can be put into a PEP without affecting the existing allowance of up to £6,000 a year in a general PEP plus up to £3,000 in a Single Company PEP.

So if you open a single company PEP for your free shares you can buy up to £3,000 worth of extra shares and PEP them too. For the majority of people who can afford to top up their holdings that is probably the best option.

But there is a catch. Investors still are only

If you are one of lucky 10 million set to demand from financial institutions and allowed one general and one single company managers of tracker funds, who will be PEP manager each tax year, so anyone receiving payouts in 1997/98 will not he able to take advantage of the converting societies' own offers if they already have a single company PEP for the year, and even if they are not holding a current single company PEP they will not be able to take up more than

one converting society's PEP offer. The way round this is for the investor specifically to tick the box on the allocation document which asks the societies to send you a share certificate. Armed with a share certificate you have 42 days from the receipt of shares to lodge them with any

manager willing to accept the shares. At least half the housebolds in the country will be getting conversion shares, so at least half of all potential PEP huyers will get sbares too. PEP providers who do not or cannot accept conversion shares will be rejecting half their potential husiness for the coming tax year.

But for one reason or another it might be difficult to channel them into a unit-linked or a tracker fund, So far only M&G has offered to accept hullding society shares direct into a general PEP. Another possi-

bility then is to choose a self-select PEP which, under Inland Revenue rules, will have to be your general PEP for the year.

Two offers are already on the table, and others are certain to follow. Nat West Bank announced this week that if investors have their share certificates it will accept huilding society shares free of charge into Shareplan, a special self-select PEP set up by the bank for the purpose during the first 42

Further free share issues can be added later without affecting investors' rights to buy up to £6,000 worth of other shares for the PEP. There will however be an admin charge of 0.3 per cent plus VAT every six months, and a dealing charge of 1.5 per cent for subsequently trading shares.

The Share Centre is also setting up a spe-cial demutualisation general PEP into which all the coming share distributions can he invested, free of charge. There will be a flat quarterly management charge of £15 (£60 a year), which is expensive if you cannot add in your investment.

Anyone interested in getting a free guide giving further details which will be distrib-uted in mid-Fehruary can ring 0800 800008.

This is your life savings

A teaching aid that flopped cost Michael Aspel £600,000

66 came seriously unstuck about 25 years ago, when I got invited to put some money into a business and was left 18months later with all the company's debts.

I was invited to do some promotional commentary for a teaching aid system. At that time, I hadn't quite realised how stupid I was where money is concerned. I thought it might be sensible not just to take a fee, but to put some money into it. It looked to me like a promising, futuristic sort

It was a maths programme, a new teaching aid system, where kids had responder units and screens and all that sort of thing. It's been superseded many times since, of course, but it seemed quite a

My biggest mistake

good idea for its time. It was going to be bought by cducation authorities.

I had it independently assessed by somehody - so I wasn't that daft - and they said: 'Yes, this looks like a clean, go-ahead business.' I horrowed some money from the bank, put my fee and all that back into it, but it just didn't take off.

There was no skulduggery involved as far as I know. But the timing was wrong, and various things were supposed to happen that didn't. Sales to the education authorities never happened, the company

quite came through. It was the old cash-flow problem. Nohody one but me for our supplier actually bought it when we needed to be selling the thing. and it all just fell by the wayside. Then we were going to be

I think the only time I was poorly treated in it was when the other guy wbo was left in it with me said we were going to be bought up, but it would require me signing a separate personal guarantee, which is what I did. I think I vaguely understood what signing the guarantee meant, but the information I was given was that we only had a few days before we were going to be

plain sailing from then on. Of course, the sale never

taken over, and it would all be

nne but me for our suppliers to go to when the crunch came.

I had a cottage in Hereford at that point, which I'd spent the last 18 months having done up, and that coincided neatly, I suppose - with this drama. The house was finished, I sold it the next day, cleared the debts and never even spent a night in it. It cost me, I suppose, about £620,000, and that was a lot of money 25 years ago. That was a hefty involvement and a very bruising experience.

One of the reasons I bought into this company was that I thought that would be a good idea to see that performing and presenting was not the only thing I relied on. Now I'm happy to say it is. I think it's

much nicer to keep it clean, take your fees, pay your tax and don't worry.

As far as my general attitude to finance is concerned, I'm soundly advised, hut I tend to forget about it the moment I've done it. I keep getting surprised by little hits of paper that tell me what's heen done. Than I have to ask, and I'm told: 'Yes, you did that PEP a year ago.'

It isn't because I have so

much money that I don't know wbat to do with it. I wouldn't be surprised if somebody said to me: Actually, you have none at all,' or that I have a great deal more than I'd ever thought. I don't keep track of it properly, I just make sure that everybody's provided for. If I can afford to take a holiday,

I'm very relieved, and that's it.

It sounds like one's heing a loveable duffer, who thinks it's attractive to be somebody wbo doesn't care about money, but that's not the case. I just have a lack of empathy where the

stuff is concerned. Most people around me seem to understand money very well, and I admire them for it, but I cannot make my mind work in that way. For me, it's all down to finding the right accountant, really,

and finding people I feel I can have faith in. It took me a long time to do that, because I do need guidance and help and reassurance all the way. But it seems to be all right at the moment'

Michael Aspel was talking to Paul





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tear of finance

ope deferred maketh the heart sick, says the old proverb, and a million policyholders in Scottish Amicable will know well what it means this week. They will have to wait three to five years to get the full "benefit" from their company's decision to demutualise and become a quoted company, although it plans to abandon its mutual status in May.

The bonuses when they come will amount to less than £300 each on average, small beer compared with the handouts huilding society members are getting from demutualisation, and they will be added to the value of current policies rather than given away in free shares. This is perhaps inevitable in view of the small size of the average bonus, which would result in too many tiny shareholdings, but it will not please policyholders who see the top 12 directors share up to £14m worth of shares and the 2,000odd staff get an average £1,000 worth of shares.

It will not exactly make them all fat cats but it does raise the question of wbo owns a business. The old distinction between shareholders and the managers has been blurred in the past decade, which is fine for incentivising the top managers of public companies but is likely to look like money for old rope to policyholders in mutual companies, since the recipients are currently responsible to no-one at all for their performance.

One result of the derisory Scot Am bonuses for policyholders is that it should put a stop to any dreams carpetbaggers might have of starting small policies with several mutual insurance companies in the hope of making the 500 per cent profits which anyone who put £100 into half a dozen building societies two years ago will shortly start enjoying. It may even

discourage speculative demand for second-hand policies issued by mutual

insurance companies.

More worrying is the decision to exclude 250,000 investors who hold unitlinked policies rather than with-profits policies. They will get nothing. It will cause the same sort of resentment as the building society conversions which drew a distinction between accounts that conveyed membership and accounts that did not. The distinctions may have been legally correct but they were not obvious to the

unlucky account-holders who were left nursing a grievance. Whatever the technical jusUfication it can only add to the overriding impression of the general public that the financial services industry is a giant lottery in which the privileged insiders make money and the general public get pigs in a poke. It may well be that many

of the smaller insurance companies are too small to meet the reserve requirements and still compete effectively with the big boys, and the choice for them is between demutualising to raise capital for expansion and amalgamating or being taken over. But as the Nationwide is demonstrating with all its might, mutual building societies can afford to charge their borrowers less and pay their investors more than societies which have turned into banks and need to keep

Other things being equal the same will apply to insurers, and the reminder that their investments must support millionaire management and an army of shareholders before they start to work for the policyholder can only discourage the public from buying insurancelinked investments at a time when they urgently need to buy more.

shareholders happy.

Clifford German

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Lambeth B\$	0800 225221	5.20 to 1/3/99	95	2 95	_		1st 5 yrs: 6 mti	ns interest
Bristol & West BS	0800 119955	6.49 to 1/1/00	90	£275	_		To 31/12/01: 6	mths interest
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First time buyers	variable rates							
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Greenwich BS	0181 858 8212	4.19% for 2 years	95 -			1St 5 yts: cusco	mif i Chanillan
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	5.74% to 1/3/02	95	295 Refur	nd valn fe e	· 1st 7 yrs: 5% o	f sum repaid
PERSONAL	MSC 200	2470 931 54					
	Telephone	APR %	Max LTV	ixed monthly	payments (£3,	,000 over 3 years)	
Unsecured		•	,	With insurance	:8	Without insura	nce
Northern Rock BS	0345 421421	12. 9 H	4	E112.66		£102.59	
Royal 8 of Scotland	0800 121125	14.0		114.78		£101.45	
Nationwide BS	via local branch	14.9	4	113.15		£102.49	
Secured (second	charge)		1	fax LTV Adva	ECS	Term	
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	7.8	Neg 4	3K - £15K		6 mths to 25 ye	ars
Royal 8 of Scotland	0131 523 7023	9.0	70%	2.5K-£100K	·	3 years to retire	ment
Midland Bank	0800 494999	10.1	90%	SK-neg		5 years to 30 ye	ars
OVERDINETS					W. W.		
			Authorise	d Unaut	thorised		
	Telephone	Account	% pm /	√PR % poπ		APR	
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.84	10.5 2,18		29.5	
Alliance & Leicester	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76	3.5 2.20		29.8	
Bank of Scotland	0800 805805	Direct Cheque	_ :	L1.0 —		26.5	
CREDIT CARD			Tokke Ex				7-17-1
CONTROL		. 4 c 414 11-21 DA1	Nin	Rate	JETUJAK APR	Annual	Int. free
CREMICARD	Telephone	Card Type	MA CONTRACT	Rate '	-10.000	Annual Fee	Int. free
		. 4 c 414 11-21 DA1	Min	Section of the second	APR	- (
Staedard		. 4 c 414 11-21 DA1	Min	Rate '	APR	- (
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta	Telephone	Card Type	Min	Rate ' % pm	APR %	Fee	period
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta	Telephone 0800 109000	Card Type Advantage Visa	Min	Rate '% pm 0.64N	APR %	Fee nil	period O days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa	Min	Rate ' % pm 0.64N 0.79N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N	Fee nil nil	period O days 56 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa	Min	Rate ' % pm 0.64N 0.79N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N	Fee nil nil	period O days 56 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards	0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa	Min Income	Rate ' % pm 0.64N 0.79N 0.797N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N	Fee nil nil nil	period O days 56 days 54 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards Co-operative Bank	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000 0345 212212 0800 077770	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa Visa	Min Income — — — — 520,000	Rate ' % pm 0.64N 0.79N 0.797N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N	Fee nil nil nil £120	period O days 56 days 54 days 46 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000 0345 212212 0800 077770 01702 362890	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa	Min Income	Rate ' % pm 0.64N 0.79N 0.797N 0.50 0.79N 1.05N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N 10.50 9.90N	Fee nil nil nil £120 ail	period O days 56 days 54 days 46 days 56 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Royal B of Scotland	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000 0345 212212 0800 077770 01702 362890	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa	Min Income — — £20,000 £20,000	Rate '% pm '0.64N '0.79N '0.797N '0.50 '0.79N '1.05N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N 10.50 9.90N 14.50N	Fee nil nil nil £120 ail	period O days 56 days 54 days 46 days 56 days 46 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Royal B of Scotland	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000 0345 212212 0800 077770 01702 362890	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa	Min Income — — £20,000 £20,000	Rate '% pm '0.64N '0.79N '0.797N '0.50 '0.79N '1.05N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N 10.50 9.90N 14.50N	Fee nil nil nil £120 ail £35	period O days 56 days 54 days 46 days 56 days 46 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Royal B of Scotland	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000 0345 212212 0800 077770 01702 362890	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Payment b	Min Income ————————————————————————————————————	Rate '% pm '0.64N '0.79N '0.797N '0.50 '0.79N '1.05N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N 10.50 9.90N 14.50N	Fee nil nil £120 nil £35 ment by other met	period O days 56 days 54 days 46 days 56 days 46 days
Staedard Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Capital One Bank Gold cards Co-operative Bank RBS Advanta Royal B of Scotland	Telephone 0800 109000 0800 077770 0800 669000 0345 212212 0800 077770 01702 362890 Telephone via store	Card Type Advantage Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Visa Payment b % pm	Min Income	Rate '% pm '0.64N '0.79N '0.797N '0.50 '0.79N '1.05N	APR % 7.90N 9.90N 9.90N 10.50 9.90N 14.50N	Fee nil nil \$120 nil \$35 ment by other met pm APR 9 18.0	period 0 days 56 days 54 days 46 days 56 days 46 days

APR Annualised percentage rate. B+C Buildings and Contents insurance LTV Loan to value. ASU Accident, sickness and unemploy miders aged over 22 years. H.- Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged

Source: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677

All rates subject to change without notice.

16 January 1997

						le4
	Telephone number	Account .	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Int int
INSTANT ACCESS						3
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.70	Year
Bank of Scotland	0500 804804	Instant Access Savings	Instant	£5,000	5.13	Mor
Bank of Scotland	0500 804804	Instant Access Savings		£10,000	5.60	Mor
Direct Line	0181 667 1121	Instant Savings	Instant	£50,000	5.75	Year
INSTANT ACCESS I	OSTAL ACED					
Teachers' BS	01202 887171	Bullion	Postal	£500	4.80	1/2
Scarborough BS	0800 590578	Instant by Post	Postal	£1,000	6:00	Year
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Select Instant	Postal	£5,000	6. 2 5	Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 901109	Instant Postal	Postal	£25,000	6.35	Aést
NOTICE ACCOUNTS	2 RONDS					
		POST-tel 20	20 day P	€5,000	6.05	Year
Chelsez BS	0800.132351	Direct 30	30 day P	£25,000	6.30	Year
Cheltenham & Glouceste Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Select 60	60 day P	£10,000	6.50	Year
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 225 7777	Postal Bonus	30/4/98 P	£10,000	7.00	Mat
CHEQUE ACCOUNT						
	0800 317477	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.20	Morr
Kleinwort Benson Investec Bank (UK)	0171 626 0879	HICA 5000	Instant	£5,000	5.25	Mort
Halifax BS	01422 335333	Asset Reserve	Instant	£10,000	4.25	Qua
Chelsea BS	0800 717515	Classic Postal	Enstant	£10,000	4.50	Year
FIXED RATE BOND	\$			- L		7
Norwich & Peterborough		Fixed Rate Sond	1 Year	£500	6.7 5 F	Mate
Prudential Banking	0800 000222	Fixed Rate Savings	16 Month	£10,000	7.05F	Mat
Norwich & Peterbarough	01733 391497	Fixed Rate Bond	2 Year ·	£10,000	7.10F	Year
Coventry BS	0345 665522	Fixed Rate Bond	30/11/99	£1,000	7.30F	Year
FIRST TESSAS						* F
Sun Banking Corp	01438 744505	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£8,575 £5.000	7.50F 7.45F	Year Year
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Fored Rate TESSA	5 years	29,000	7.20	Year
Investec Bank (UK)	0171 626 0879 0990 143668		5 years 5 years	£250	7.00	Year
West Bromwich BS		areasan di diga 4 45 5	a years			
FOLLOW-ON TESSA		Fored Rate TESSA	5 years	£9.000	7.50F	Year
Sun Banking Corporation	0800 200400	Fixed Rate TESSA	5 years	£5,000	7.45F	Year
NatWest Bank National Counties BS	01372 747771	LINE WHE LOOK	5 years	£9,000	7.20	Year
West Bromwich BS	0990 143668		5 years	£250	7.00	Year
GUARANTEED INCO	ME BONDS (mer very			2	2.2
Financial Assurance	0181 3803388		1 year	£5,000	5.30FN	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007		2 year	23,000	5.90FN	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 9007		3 years	£3,000	5.95FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380388		4 years	£20,000	6.30FN	Year
.Pinnacle Insurance	0181 207 -007	. There was the second of the	5 years	23,000	6.40FN	Year
_NATIONAL SAVINGS	ACCOUNTS 3	post, A. F.				
Investment Accounts			1 month	£20	4.75 5.25	Year Year
		•		£500 £25,000	5.25 5.50	Year
Innoma Donde			3 months	£25,000 £2.000	6.00	Mont
Income Bonds			2 triguitit2	£25,000	6.25	Mont
Capital Bond		Series J	5 years	£100	6.65F	Matu
First Option Bonds		Anima 1	12 months	£1,000	6.00F	Year
. Tot obnest bosids				€20,000	6.25F	Year
Pensioner's G'teed Incon	ne Bond	Series 3	5 уваг	£500	7.00F	Mont
NS Certificates (tax-free)		43rd Issue	5 year	£100	5.35F	Matu
		9th Index Tinked	5 year	£100	2.50+rpl	Matu
			-			

Children's Band

P post only N net rate A All ynthdrawals subject of 30 day loss of interest. All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.

Soutte: MONEYFACTS 01692 500677.

£25

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6.75F Maturity

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M&G will be launching a new Investment Trust in February which will be available for investment in the M&G PEP.

This new fund will invest in a portfolio of shares and aims to provide a high and growing income as well as good capital growth over time.

PEP investors will have a choice of investing, either to achieve a yield above 5%* or, for those investors willing to take higher risk, to achieve a yield of over 6%*.

There will be no initial charge and no withdrawal fee. This new fund will give you the opportunity to invest your tax free PEP allowance for both the current tax year and for the 1997/98 tax year - a total tax free investment of up to £12,000.

After the initial offer period there will be a spread between the buying and selling prices.

NO SALESMAN WILL CALL. You should contact your independent financial adviser (if you have one) before investing. You should contact your independent managed and as well as up. The value to you is now available, of the tax benefits will depend on your own circumstances. The tax regime of PEPs could INITIALS SURNAME

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ed by The Personal Investment Authority. M&G Unit Trusts are managed by M&G Securities Limited. (Regulated by IMRO and The Personal vestment Authority)

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Just in case Labour wins...

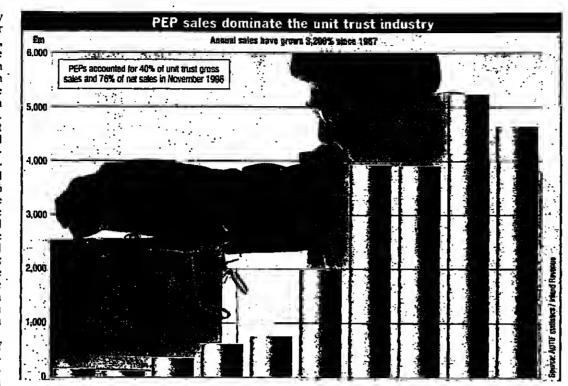
PEP providers are playing on election fears. Clifford German reports

urchases of personal equity are set to break all records, and the demand could continue over into the 1997-98 tax year which starts on April 6, as investors rush to get money invested early in case a change of government brings a tightening of the annual allowances.

Investors had already bought almost £5bn worth of personal equity plans by the end of November with four full months of the current tax year still to come, compared with £5.25m in the whole of 1995-96 In most years two-thirds of the annual sales are concentrated in the last few months of the tax year and this year the sales season looks like being very busy, and it may well spill over into the start of the 1997-98 tax year, just in case Labour wins the election and Gordon Brown the prohable Labour Chancellor puts a limit on PEP holdings in the interim budget Labour has promised within four weeks of winning an election.

Over the last 10 years a total of £24hn has been invested, Individuals who have contributed the maximum allowed each year could cach now have sheltered up to £64,000 in a PEP and the most successful plans will now contain shares worth nver £200,000 with tax-free income as

The worst a Labnur Chancellor is expected to do is put an overall limit on the amount of money an individual has put into PEPs and perhaps TESSAs since they were introduced. Annual investment allowances for smaller investors are unlikely to change, but PEP providers are competing for husiness and will play on fears of a tougher



The most ohvious attempt to play on investors' fears came this week from Legal & General whose Election PEP goes on sale next Monday until February 21. It is run as a Dublin-based company which qualifies it as a single company as well as a general PEP so investors can put in the maximum annual allowance of £9,000, including if they wish transfers from PEPS managed by other providers, which are accepted free of charge.

The plan charges an initial fee of

charge of 1 per cent a year, but the returns are calculated on the full sum put into the fund. The plan pays hack the capital in full after five years, plus 1.4 times any gain in the FTSE 100 share index over that time. So 50 per cent rise would turn into à 70 per cent gain.

But it is not an equity fund and it pays nn dividends. Roughly 70 per cent of the investment is simply put on deposit where it should earn the managers enough to repay the investment at maturity. The balance

formance of the FTSE 100 share index which should meet the growth target.

In order to minimise the risk of investing ahead of a steep fall in the index after the election and maturing in the middle of a downturn in the market in 2002 the value of the investment is averaged over the first year and the maturity value over the whole of the fifth year,

This means the investor will get only four years potential growth for 3.5 per cent and a management is used to buy options on the per- will prohably do better to invest in allowances.

a growth fund or even an indextracking fund which should earn in excess of 30 per cent gross income over five years.

Perpetual is offering next month a World Income PEP fund which will deduct management charges from capital and aims to pay a gross yield of 4 per cent. Schroder is offering an Income Option PEP and a Growth Option split between three Schroder unit trusts, the smaller, companies, European smaller companies and the Pacific growth funds. Prudential is offering a High Income version of the Prudence Gold PEP which will aim to yield 7.5 per cent tax free by investing in corporate bonds, government stocks and up to 20 per cent in

Prolific is offering a triple choice of an income plan currently yielding 7.52 per cent tax-free, a capital growth plan and a combined plan. The initial charges are 3 per cent and the annual charge 1 per cent, which is less than the average for most managed funds.

At the other end of the scale Fidelity investments believes the last thing investors want is more choice. With 1,700 PEPS to choose from already investors want simpler plans, lower charges and a better understanding of the risks and rewards of investments like PEPS. which can go down as well as up in

It is spending £2m on marketing including 40 free seminars across the country (Call 0800-371318 for local details) and refunding initial charges on 1997-98 PEPS for investors who invest or transfer in his money and critics claim investors their 1996-97 and 1997-98 PEP

Questions and answers

Independent adviser Bryan Fisher answers a reader's query on the pros and cons of personal equity plans

Q: I am considering making two PEP investments of £6,000 for myself and my wife. I am adventurous and she is cautious. Which is the best PEP for us? What are the risks? There seem to be so many PEPs available, I find it all very confusing. B.J. Manchester

A: A PEP is just a set of rules placed around an investment in British or European Union equities (shares) either individually or via a unit trust or investment trust. The gains are free from capital gains tax and income free from income tax. Investors pay charges to the managers.

Unit and investment trusts invest in many different sectors,including emerging companies, smaller companies, UK growth, UK income and more specialist areas. Some managers offer tracker funds, which fullow a elected market index and evy lower charges.

Up to £1.500 of the £6,000 allowance for a general PEP may now be invested overseas. A further £3.000 can be invested in shares of a single company. The general PEP allowance can also be invested in assets paying fixed-interest dividends, known as corporate bond PEPs.

The most important factor is the track record of investment performance. Volatility and charges are also considerations, but

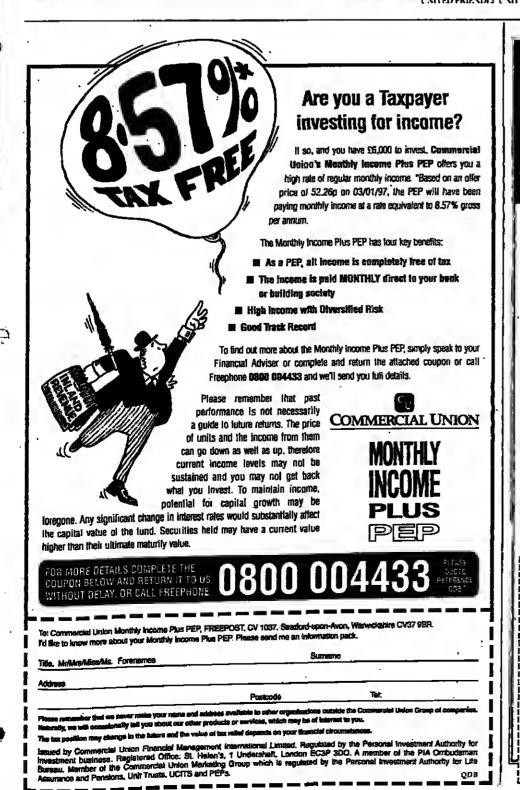
good investment performance considerably outweighs these factors. The best performing PEPs have tripled in value over the last five years. This is equal to a compound return of 24 per

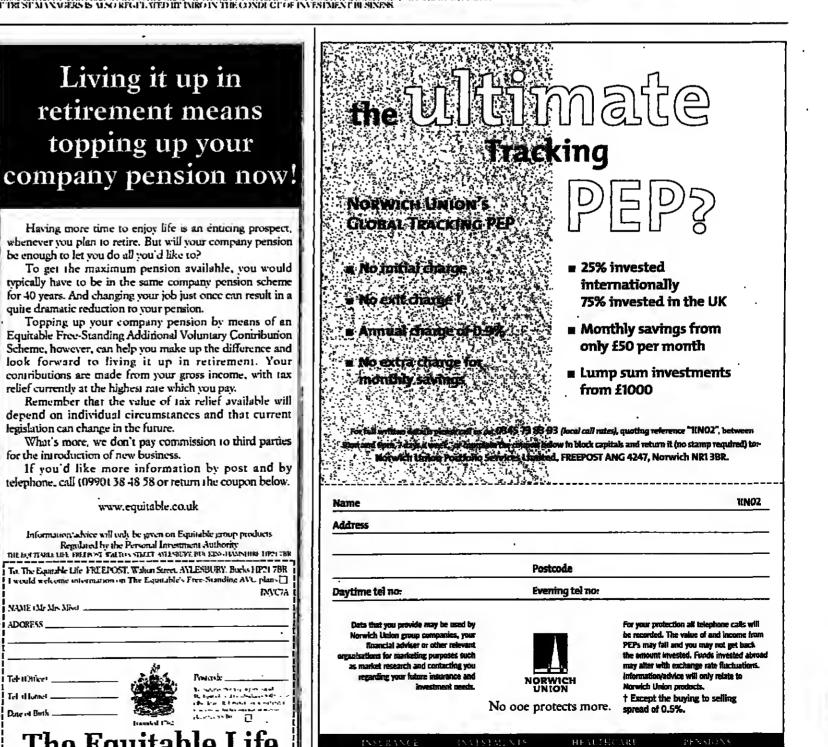
cent per annum. As a cautious investor. your wife might be interested in a corporate bond PEP. These are investments in fixed-interest securities, though the capital value can still vary, going down when interest rates rise and vice versa. The ultimate security of a guaranteed return of around 7 per cent can be achieved through a permanent interest-bearing PEP.

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Your choice in investment will depend on your individual definition of caution and adventure. The best solution is to talk to an adviser who has the facilities to monitor the investment performance, volatility, and charges of the whole range of PEPs available. Bryan Fisher is financial planning manager at Berkeley Financial Planning in Coventry: The advice is for guidance only and no action should be taken without receiving specific and professional advice. Readers can write to him clo The Independent, no more than 250 words, please.

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A new investment is born

The unit trust business is set for a shake-up, says Ken Welsby

turn in the coming months closed-end funds, such as with the arrival of a new type Oeic. An Oeic (pronounced "oik") is an open-ended investment company, a structure which is well established in continental Europe, but new to most UK investors. Like its cousins the unit trust and the investment trust, an Oeic can be held tax-free in a personal equity plan.

be a month or more before the first funds are launched. So what's in a name? In the case of the Oeic, it tells you quite a lot about the product. First. the fund is open-ended, which

trust and Pep business is as investors are prepared to could switch all or part of vehicle to be tailored to meet expected to take a new subscribe. This contrasts with investment trusts, where subof managed fund known as the scriptions are limited to the amount of share capital.

An Oeic is an investment company, so it is controlled by enable the fund manager to a director or directors rather than trustees, and it can - but usually won't - be quoted on the stock market. Your investment in an Oeic therefore consists of shares, rather than units. The next new feature is Government regulations to that an Oeic will be an allow Oeics came into force umhrella fund, with several earlier this month, but it could sub funds, each with its own distinctive flavour.

This could mean, for example, that someone investing £100 a month could put £50 in a conventional UK growth and income fund, £25 in emerging structure is one of the most means that - like a unit trust markets and £25 in corporate important features of the Oeic

your holdings into whichever fund held out the best growth prospects for the future. The charge for switching would entirely free, since it would keep your business rather than

losing it to a competitor. This contrasts with the way that unit trusts operate, where you bave to sell and re-invest, incurring charges on both sides of the transaction. Much of the spadework for the introduction of Oeics has been the work of Autif, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds and a key role in the project was played by its director of legal and fiscal affairs, Sheila Nicoll, "The umbrella

The price war in the unit -it can take in as much money bonds. Then, at year end, you since it enables an investment the investor's specific objectives," she says.

This emphasis of flexibility is reflected in another big difprohably be either nominal or ference between unit trusts and Oeics: the new funds will he able to have different classes of share, each with its own specific conditions and charging structure. The different share classes can even be denominated in different currencies. To UK investors accustomed to straightforward investment in equities or unit trusts, the concept of share classes might seem an unnecessary complication - but as Sheila Nicoll explains, it's all

> "The fund must issue public sbares, available to everyone who completes the paperwork and pays the subscription," she says. Beyond that, it's up to the fund manager to create the share classes for specific needs. For example, there could be a specific class of share for sale to Pep investors, or to institutions dealing in millions, or maybe one sold only through

part of the Oeic's wide appeal.

IFAs which paid commission. "All these are possible, and no doubt there will be many more; it will be a matter of what's appropriate for each segment of the market."

Which brings us to perbaps the most obvious difference hetween unit trusts and Oeics - the price at which they are bought and sold. Look at the prices of most unit trusts, and there is a spread hetween the sell and buy prices - often known as bid and offer prices - at which the fund sells units to new investors and huys them hack from those withdrawing their casb. In other words, when you

buy or sell units you are paying more or getting less than the net asset value (NAV) the value of the assets held in the fund divided by the number of units issued. In contrast, Oeics will be both sold and bought at the net asset value. The commission and charges will he shown separately according to a published price list. This transparency of pric-

trusts, and the move to single pricing and transparency will with the rest of the world, not be affected.

particularly the rest of Europe. And therein lies one of the reasons why Oeics are being introduced. Not simply to give savers more choice, but to give the fund management industry in the UK a product which they can sell easily in other European markets.

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The first moves towards cross-border selling of investment products were taken in the 1980s when the European directive on collective investments - known as the UCITS directive - introduced the concept of a "passport" for managed funds. The idea is that once a fund has been approved in one EU member state it can be sold in the rest of the Union without requiring approval from other national governments.

But because unit trusts are not familiar to continental investors, there has until now been little scope for UK products to be exported to the rest of Europe. The expertise of fund management has remained in London and Edinburgh, but what has been exported is the administrative work, which accounts for 60 per cent of management costs and a similar share of the employment. Most of this bas gone to Dublin and Luxemhourg, where the legal frameworks for open-ended funds are well established.

Over the past five years the assets of UK fund managers in Luxembourg and Dublin have climbed from \$3.3bn to almost \$20bn, and since the late 1980s funds under management in these centres bave increased fourfold, while those in London have only doubled. But the arrival of the Oeic does not just open mainland Europe to UK products, it also opens our doors to others - not just funds from continental Europe, but also some of the large US asset managers who

may now prefer to operate from London rather than Dublin. The i's are still being dotted and the t's being crossed, so don't expect to see any of these new funds being launched next week. But over the next two years industry analysts expect ing - in which customers can that as many as 300 existing see immediately how much is unit trusts will probably con-

they are paying for service - is tage of a concession in the one of the key principles of the Finance Bill which exempts such conversions from tax and Ms Nicoll says simply that stamp duty until 1999. The investors often do not under- first conversions will probably stand the dual pricing of unit be trusts whose management has changed hands. But don't worty if it happens to your unit simply bring Britain in line - the underlying assets will



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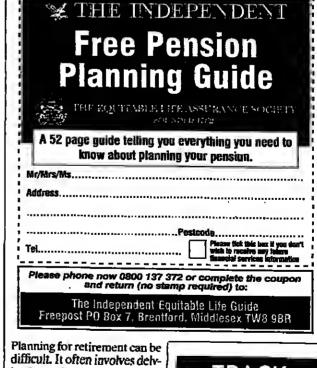
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S DOrn Whatever happened to... is whatever happened to... is Music?

The Seventies

THE INDEPENDENT LONG WEEKEND • SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 1997

their needles, put on the black vinyl and find that the 1950s Karajan is still the better version. Andre Previn shows nff his sideboards and women in the string section sport Jacqueline du Pré-style hair. The rest of us are kept at a safe distance, consuming classical music via the Old Spice ad. A man surfing to the accompaniment of wailing monks poses little threat to the musical establishment.

Then 1981

TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ THE EYE TODAY

People retire home from a con-cert at the Festival Hall to clean Paul's Cathedral heralds the event of the century: the Royal Divorce. But first they have to go through the ritual of a wedding. That dress pulls all the headlines. A padded, striped affair of duhinus design, Te Kanawa's number marks her entrance on the world stage. And opera gains ground in mid-die England. The event proves lucrative for both women, with a win bonus for Diana when sbe splits from Charles. Te Kanawa

draws criticism for restricting her work to popular roles such as the Countess in The Marriage of Figuro, but Diana strangely escapes blame for her role as the Princess in The Divorce.

Classical music sales increase, helped by a general upward trend in the economy. By 1985 they account for 15 per cent of all record sales. Along with a Porsche and a mobile phone, the new CDs are the designer items of the 1980s. They also contain

music, an added selling point. Classical music adds a touch of class to the candlelit meal, and greatly improves a chance of congress with your dinner guest.

A sad farcwell is bid to vinyl, with its covers of pastoral landscapes by Claude and seriouslooking cellists: it's hello to CDs with pictures of post-coital women. Such joy is matched by the record companies which realise that people will bave to duplicate everything they had on record on to CD. And Nigel Kennedy gains success by hav-ing a punk hairstyle and talking

eats saw it all: "Things

nister). A genius, of course,

but there's no denying that the

Breakfast Show has become

increasingly self-indulgent and

ill-prepared: the vein of perky

inventiveness he showed when

he started two years ago seems

to have petered out; instead

we get Chrissie saying "Hi buddy, bow ya doing buddy?"

And while listening to Fri-

day morning's show, I would-

n't necessarily say that the

blood-dimmed tide was

loosed, the ceremony of inno-

cence was certainly drowned,

what with discussions of

drooping breasts and his side-

kicks' contraceptive hahits.

fall apart; the centre can-

not hold; Mere anarchy

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badly, 2 million copies of his But 1989 Four Seasons eventually being shifted.

The Climax

The Three Tenors concert in Rome enlivens a dire 1990 World Cup. It takes classical music to new heights, sales of the album eventually reaching the 10 million mark. An American idea to award marks out of 10 to each singer at the concert is buckily scrapped, so we are spared another penalty shoot-out to

Classical sales start to plummet the CD boom, and the popularity of a few artists, hiding a long-term decline. In desperation record companies dress up anyone in a monk's outfit, and Vanessa Mae in not very much.

Fishing for a Chris for breakfast

Classical music has lost out 10 compilations, accounting for more than balf of the sales. Classic FM and BBC Music Magazine encourage the down-

market approach. The implementation of a crossover chart confirms its victory. Roberto Alagna is sold as the "Fourth Tenor", a recent documentary on Channel 4 showing his concert diary to be a match for anyone's. So will classical music ever be rid of this populism? It hardly matters to record companies, since by the next century everything will be accessed on the Internet. Nor to concert goers, since theLottery will ensure there are brilliant venues, but no one tn perform in them. James Aufenast



'I don't just teel nervous beginning. I feel nervous all the way through': Judie Tzuke hits the comeback

t's not been a week when showbiz bas shown itself in its most attractive light. Harvey yet again thinking that pretending his hands are pistols in publicity stills makes him intelligent enough to open his mouth in public, know what I mean. Meanwhile, a nice girl from Weybridge has been packing her

of a Vauxhall Vectra and covering a stack of motorway miles in a bid to make a lot of people very happy. Judie Tzuke may not have the Gallagher hrothers' capacity for assuring their audience that they are witnessing history, but at 36 she's a little slice of it in her own right: someone who was big in the Seventies, whn can still pack 'em in in the Nineties. And

hacking singers into the back

road. She's done it by keeping things small. The car is on loan for the month from BSM, one of her singers is something by way of a stepdaughter, and much of the audience has been in love with her since her biggest single, "Stay With Me Till Dawn", echoed round their bedrooms the first time they

got their hearts broken. Going to see Judie is like going to see your hippie sister and realising she's been pretty cool

trail all along. At the Jazz Café on Sunday, they were hanging from the side to her at all, no evident rafters. The blue-lit well of the main auditorium seethed with the genteel anticipation of bottled beer drinkers who'd a career spanning seven record turned up with their mates and labels and setting up one of their girlfriends. The night before I'd been in a club in nervous at the beginning. I feel Balham where you couldn't nervous all the way through. turn round without impaling And the next day I just feel yourself on a goatee. This completely drained. I'm not crowd sported no peculiar good at judging how it's going, to be honest. I was watching were doing things like smiling this video of myself the other and talking to their neigh- day and I'm furious at the

your ticket. This sort of thing has got to stop: heaven knows Chris Evans throwing his what sort of state the country weight about, and Brian will get into if everyone starts what sort of state the country

being nice. On the balcony, people leaned elbows on the tables and broke bread together. This just ain't London. A plate of chips prefabricated in a factory frier, maybe, or a saucer containing 12 marinated olives with a few bits of garlic that costs £3.50, hut the clatter of murmur of voices? No. I was so disconcerted I found myself tempted to try a smile on the woman next to me. I did. She smiled back. Truly hizarrc.

The band made their way out of the dressing rooms, down the stairs and onto the cramped stage. People whooped a bit and shouted what's more, the blonde things like "Helln, Judie!", balladeer hasn't even had to Judie, long, white-blonde hair resort to self-pasticbc, like and black Ghost coat, grinned they're all word-perfect. As many of the acts still on the shyly. Genuine sbyness: nearly someone who has been known



discovered her, she still has to be hypnotised to get out there. We have had a hit of a chat

and she's completely sweet: no arrogance, though God knows you'd have thought you'd need some arrogance to get through completely drained. I'm not bour, a breach of gig etiquette audience in it, because I think on a par with saying "excuse they're not standing up enough. Tour continues to 11 Feb; call they're not standing up enough. 01932 859472 for details

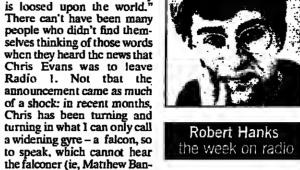
me" or admitting you paid for But they were a fantastic audience. It's just my music is not exactly leaping up-anddown stuff."

She's right. They don't leap up and down. What they do is sway. Looking down on the crowd from above is like watching a wave machine. It starts with the people at the front, but the people at the front and poured from freezer to of any gig are the most willing to go into trance. Halfway through the first song, the front row is well-settled into the hardened fan's head-bob. It knives and forks and the must he very disconcerting to look down from a stage and see lines and lines of penple looking like they're sitting on the back shelf of a car along with the Kleenex box. Halfway

through the set, they're all at it. What is also evident is that everybody knows all the lyrics. Fiftysomethings and late teenagers stand side by side, mouthing, closing their eyes or fixing them on Judie's face, and

> to do the same to everything Van Morrison ever wrote, down to the "mama-ma"s, I can respect this, "1 think," says the friend who's with me into my ear, "that quite a lot of these people have bars in their living rooms." I think that's a bit unfair. They're more Indian

Later, after a couple of encores and a load of cuddling, Judie sits, still shaking, in the dressing room. The fans are trailing out happy into the Camden night to go home and mouth the lyrics along with the record-player. I ask what it's like to have everyone join in like that, "Ooh," she says, "it's great. Some of them know my stuff better than I do. Sometimes I can't remember the words, but they'll fill them in for me. There's a lady who comes to all my gigs and stands at the front; I can always look



The most dispiriting part was a whinge about how shabbily he was being treated by the BBC - the self-mockery that used to characterise Evans at his best finally giving way to undignified and mildly repulsive self-pity. The most dis-turbing part was his assertion that it's the BBC's job to "give the public what they want". If he really does think that's the point of public service broadcasting, maybe he sbouldn't be at the BBC.

another way, who is going to replace Evans in the Radio 1 breakfast slot? Mark Radcliffe's anointment has already been confidently announced in at least one newspaper, though Radio 1 denies that any decision has yet been made, and being Evans's regular stand-in must give him a head start. Talking of rough beasts,

though, puts me in mind that another well-qualified contender has lately become available: the brouhaha over Evans seems to have obscured the fact that Derek Jameson, together with his lovely wife, Ellen, last week announced his departure from Radio 2. My feeling is that a deal bas already been struck. The official story is that Derek plans to see the world and write a novel, but it seems too much of a coincidence that the Jamesons' stint will be finishing at the end of March, at exactly the same time Evans finishes working out his notice. Their happy conjugal banter, mercifully free of sexual innuendo. may he exactly the thing The big question now is, Matthew Bannister is looking

to be born - or, to put it ous sense of fun can sometimes lead him to go a bit too far. One of the most painful things I've heard for some time was his grilling of Ian Lavender (Pike in Dad's Army) on Monday's edition of The Jamesons; had being so closely associated with one part held his career back. Derek wanted to know. "You've not done much since then, have you?" he bellowed. "You're still just carrying spears, aren't you?" -- rounding off with an amusing cry of "Stupid boy". At this point, your reporter made his excuses

and tuned to Radio 3. If, on the other hand, Evans's replacement has to be a safe pair of hands, a man with a proven track record in national breakfast-time radio, then the obvious candidate must be Peter Hobday, formerly of Today and now celebrated as presenter of the panel-game Wordly Wise. I can hear him already, asking newsreaders to fax him amusing definitions of long words, getting listeners to lick their husband's lollipops while suggesting a derivation for "vindaloo". At any rate, nobody could then precisely what rough beast is for to raise Radio 1's moral accuse the BBC of simply give slouching towards Bethlehem tone, though Derek's boister-the public what they want. accuse the BBC of simply giving

When the jokes die, let farts fly

ith only minimal use of a VCR, you could watch three hours of sitcom last night and then round it off with an edition of Dani Dares (C4, Fri), in which the eponymous braveheart attempted to become a standup comic in a week. As she prepared to play the Comedy Store armed with only a couple of gags about the menstrual cycle, Dani Behr insisted with characteristic humility that she was "rubbish at telling jokes". Which puts her in the same boat as the entire crew of pirates in Captain Butler (C4. Fri). This is another miserable product from a perilously inconsistent comedy department now reeling from the announcement that Father Ted's writers want to move on. Channel 4 has a brief to cater for minorities, but which one did they have in mind this time? The Jolly Roger Society, which annually re-enacts noto-rious piratical raids? One of the things Behr learnt in her researches is that comedy is a "good laxative". In this all too

result of a laxative. Now halfway through its voyage towards what will surely be a merciful scuppering, Cap-tain Butler is only worth mentioning because its lead is Craig Charles, who also returned in Red Dwarf (BBC2, Fri), Each sitcom is set in distant centuries

common case, it looks like the



Jasper Rees

on board ships manned (literally: no girl gagsters allowed up gangway) echo of Dark Skies (C4, Mon). ran a witty plotline about the shipmate. "No," he said, sur-

been as indolent. Dressing For Breakfast (C4, Fri) confirms that there's noth-

comicstereotypes. In both, Charles plays the sceptic with the 20th-century take on things. Inevitably, the show taking off for its seventh series gives him better material than the one about to sink after its first. Red Dwarf, in a weird assassination of JFK. His only funny line as a pirate came when asked whether he'd say a few words at the funeral of a prised at his own scorn for procedure, "I can't be bothered." If only the scriptwriters had

AA Roadwatch

a contemporary set of gags about the condition of girldom: chocaholism, aversion boys - this is the fertile furrow which scriptwriter Stephanie Calman ploughs. Some of the

Aird's wonderfully classy Carla tells her boyfriend, who wants into its dotage, the snappy to get her in shape for a charnew US import is Spin City ity disco, "it's a drink." The (C4, Fri). Overlook, if you feeble joke may conceivably be in character, but Calman might have worked harder to distance herself from it. At least it belongs to an overall gameplan, though. Unlike Captain Butler, with its stale assumptions about male humour, Dressing for Breakfast is a sitcom that aspires to be about something. There was another joke

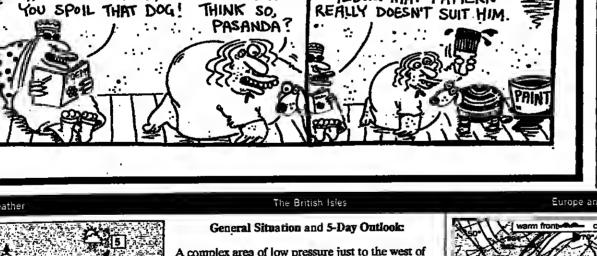
about charity in Roseanne (C4. Fri). Our heroine has won the state lottery and the family was well-known philanthropist instincts. "We've already committed to a charity." Darlene told one mendicant. "We've just bought 500 jars of Paul Newman salad dressing." In its 199th episode, the show ought to be in the advanced stages of rigor mortis, but it's still capaing like a sitting room and a ble of the odd spry move. Hav-

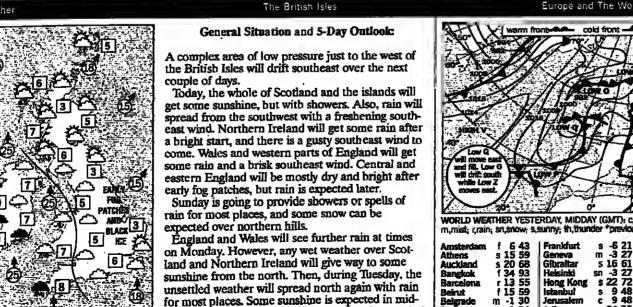
collection of modern anxieties mg spent its entire life doing for shortening the comic odds. mg spent its entire life doing punchlines about being poor, Like Dani Behr's routine, it's it's plainly planning to go out a sitcom that equips itself with on a bunch of jokes about being filthy rich. To remind themselves where they come from, though, Dan reassured to exercise, the endless folly of Roseanne that they'll always be able to joke about farts. (Clearly a staple in the lingua franca of humour, because material is deplorably weak: Jenny Eclair advised Dani Behr "You can't play squash." Holly to open her set with a fart joke.)

With Roseanne lumbering can, the almost heroic implausibility of a scenario in which Michael J Fox plays Michael T Flaherty, the deputy mayor of New York whose journalist girlfriend is assigned to report on the misdeeds perpetrated by his administration.

Underneath, there's a snappy comedy about office politics and the tug of war between bed and desk, one that's sassily alive to popular culture. This week, Mike had been dubbed New Ynrk's sexiplagued with appeals to their est man by Manhattan magazine, and couldn't erase a picture of the whole city standing bedside as he performed. His girlfriend encouraged him to narrow the imaginary audience down to Chinatown, then Little Italy. Eventually they tried Houston, but to no avail. "Houstnn," said Mike, "we have a problem."

MIEN HURTS....and his painfully creative struggle **erber** HONESTLY DAMIEN " YOU REALLY YES ... THAT PATTERN REALLY DOESN'T SUIT HIM. YOU SPOIL THAT DOG! THINK SO, . PASANDA?











Looking southeast at about 9pm this week. The moon lies between the twins and Procyon on the 22nd

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inter full moon occurs this week during the make out the stars in the dim constellation of Monoceros, the ▼ afternoon of Thursday Unicorn, between Procyon and 23. The previous evening, the Sirius, or even Cancer to the left moon lies squarely between the of Procyon. Heavenly Twins, Castor and By a carious coincidence, both Sirius and Procyon have turned Pollux and Procyon, beacon of Canis Minor, the Lesser Dog. out to be double stars whose The full moon brightens the sky companions are white dwarfs, ten thousand times dimmer than so much all but the most brilliant of stars are impossible These oddities are dying stars to discern. You should be able to pick out Orion on the right of which have collapsed so that a teaspoon of one of them would the Moon and Sirius, the brightest in the sky, between and below Orion and Procyon. You will need darker sides to

Jacqueline Mitton



The big picture L'Avventura

Sat 11.50pm BBC2

The 1959 film which marks the beginning of the high period of Michelangelo Antonioni (above) also saw the start of the Italian director's muse-like relationship with actress Monica Vitti. It is also where the landscape first begins to dominate his characters, as a group of friends, yachting off the coast of Sicily, lose one of their number. Subtle, visually stunning and something totally new - it was neatly described by one critic as "upper-class neo-realism". Just so.

Television preview

Recommended viewing this weekend by Gerard Gilbert



The Place of the Dead Sat 9pm ITV Texas Justice Sat 9.15pm BBC1 Arena Sat 10.20pm BBC2 The Great Sell Off Sun 7.30pm BBC2 People's Century Sun 10.30pm BBC1

think that The Place of the Dead (Sat ITV) was about something of great public import, instead of a British Army "adventure training" expedition to the jungles of Borneo that nearly went pear-shaped. You might remember this news story from 1994 - how half an expedition to a remote valley in Borneo nearly perished after getting left behind with insufficient rations.

Writteo by Jeff Pope. LWT's Head of Factual Drama. The Place of the Dead is part of a growing British fascination with a genre which the Americans have been mining for decades - the hehind-the-headlines drama (capsized yachtsman Tony Bullimore is alleged to be fielding offers from Hollywood as I write). The story is framed around an army enquiry into the incident, which allows Timothy West, as the officer in charge of said enquiry, to butt into the action from time to time with remarks like "It seems to me that this conversation between Mayfield and Neill was crucial". Pay atteotion at the back, in other words. This is just as well, since otherwise the viewer might drift off into

o judge from the portentous opening music, you'd s comfortable torpor, enjoying the Malaysian scenery oeuvre, from his early neo-realist-tinged Italian features but largely disinterested in the human drama unfolding within it. As with LWT's film about the SAS mission inside Gulf War Iraq. The One That Got Away, events are based on one team member's accounts and the air is thick with the smell of threatened legal action from colleagues less sympathetically portrayed.

Also hased on a real story, albeit from the 1970s, Texas Justice (Sat BBC1) is more involving in a glitzy, often laughable, post-Dallas sort of way. However, it started last night so I won't waste too much space on it, suffice to say that fans of NYPD Blue's Dennis Franz can catch their hero playing a shyster lawyer.

To tie in with his first film in nearly 15 years, Arena (Sat BBC2) has a portrait of Michelangelo Antonioni, subtitled "Dear Antonioni" after an open letter to the Italian director (who, after a stroke, can oo longer speak) from Roland Barthes. Taking up the tone of Barthes's letter, Gianni Massironi's film errs on the

to his current release, via Blow Up, Zabriskie Point and that exploding house. Which tale of youthful alienation brings us handily to People's Century (Sun BBC1), which, this week, deals with the mass juvenile revolt that culminated in the events of 1968 - a time wheo, according to one of our reminiscents, "the best way to seduce a girl is to talk about Trotsky or revolution". New Lads in 1968 dressed like Che Guevara.

Meanwhile, the latest cotry in BBC2's recent fine tradition of instant history lessons, The Great Sell Off (Sun BBC2), charts the story of privatisation under the current Conservative regime. Except that "privatisation" existed neither in word nor manifesto intent at either the 1979 or 1983 general elections, and was, as in so much of politics, the result of a make-do policy - that of off-loading government shares to raise cash. Even old Labour sold BP shares in the 1970s. It was the Falklands factor which changed all that - and a side of the hagiographic, ignoring the fact that wild-eyed Maggie who, having launched the fleet, one or two major film critics are utterly turned off by Antonioni's work. Still, it's a useful overview of his flotation ever – British Telecom. Rejoice.



The big match Five Nations Championship Scotland v Wales Sat 2.25pm BBC1

The new Five Nations rugby union championship kicks off today (at 3pm) with one of the most even-looking competitions in years, thanks to England's relatively unsettled team. The match at . Murrayfield should prove educational. Scotland nearly took the grand starn last year and with Craig Chalmers (above) and Bryan Redpath in the backs, could well surprise us again. Wales, with their rugby league returnees Quinnell, Gibbs, Bateman, Young and Davies, are the competition's dark horses.

Saturday television and radio

BBC 1

7.05 The Pink Panther Show (R) (7391499). 7.25 News and Weather (3778505). 7.30 Children's BBC: Iznogoud. 7.40 Speed Racer.

Richard, Cyndi Lauper and the Backstreet Boys are the guests (S) (20784321).

12.12 Weather (7816654). 12.15 Grandstand. 12.20 Football Focus. 1.00 News. 1.05 Racing From Haydock: the 1.15 race. 1.25 Tennis: Australian Open. 1.40 Racing: the 1.45 Peter Marsh Steeplechase. 1.55 Rugby Union: review of today's Five Nations matches, 2.10
Racing: the 2.15 Tote Premier Long Distance
Hurdle. 2,25 Rugby Union: Live coverage of
Scotland v Wales from Murrayfield in the Five

5.40 Regional News and Weather (590895). 5.45 The Simpsons. This episode takes its cue from that long-running American news story of a few years back when a boy got stuck down a well, as Bart makes a bogus radio announcement that a little boy called Timmy is stuck down a well in

train by a gang of homicidal terrorists in the Canadian Mountie-in-Chicago saga that hasn't really captured the public's Imagination (857963).

7,50 The National Lottery Live, Last week's show was a bit flat. Can cuddly, camp draw-melster Dale Winton whoop 'em up like Uncle Bob?

8.05 Casualty. Following on from last week's storyline the staff are interrogated when Charlie is accused of sexual harassment. Meanwhile, an escaped prisoner causes chaos on the ward (S) (775876).

8.55 News and Sport (Followed by Weather) (234692).

9.14 National Lottery Update (776789).

9.15 Texas Justice. 2/2. Concluding the mini-series starring Peter Strauss, Heather Locklear and Dennis Franz. See Preview, above (419944). *

..50 The Frank Skinner Show *(R)* (S*)* (985*383).* 12.20 Top of the Pops (R) (S) (9228258). * 12.50 Border Shootout (Chris McIntyre 1990 US). That rare thing (thank heavens, you say) - the modern western. This one, intriguingly, is written by Elmore Leonard, a writer better known for

8.05 The Real Adventures of Jonny Quest. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman.

9.15 Live and Kicking. 8/ue Peter's Tim Vincent, Cliff

Nations championship, The kick-off is at 3pm. See The big match, above. 4.40 Final Score. 5.00 Rugby Union; highlights of Ireland v France from Oublin (S) (21940418).
5.30 News and Weather (352296). *

Springfield (S) (830499), *
6.10 Due South. Fraser is held hostage on a runaway

6.55 Noel's House Party, One-woman fitness Industry Rosemary Conley receives a Gotcha (S) (632741).

(S) (3855**0**5), *

10.45 Match of the Day. Liverpool v Aston Villa at Anfield is the main event (S) (8501760). *

laconic, streetwise thrillers like Get Shorty. It stars Cody Glenn as a young deputy sheriff struggling to keep control in his boss's absence (9870600). 2.20 Weather (1666426). To 2.25am.

BBC2

7.05 THE The Locket (John Brahm 1946 US). The first film in a Robert Mitchum double-bill finds Bob

film In a Robert Mitchum double-bill finds Bob bewitched by unlikely temptress Laraine Day in a psycho-drama containing more flashbacks than a Vietnam veteran on LSD (1745031).

8.30 **SILM Bandido** (Richard Fleischer 1956 US). Robert Mitchum again – this time as a gun-runner caught up in the Mexican Revolution (41673).

10.00 Chanalya (S) (3311609).

10.35 Network East (S) (6371586).

11.20 Q Asia (S) (9147429).

11.50 Film 97 with Barry Norman (5858012). 12.20 See Escape to Burma (Allan Dwan 1955 US). Torrid stuff as falsely accused Innocent-on-the-run Robert Ryan ends up hiding out on spirited Barbara Stanwyck's Burmese tea plantation. They fight, they kiss (1680944).

1.45 FIEM House of Bamboo (Samuel Fuller 1955 US). Robert Ryan again, this time as an undercover American agent who is sent to infiltrate a crime gang operating in occupied Japan and believed to be led by errant Gls. Typically in-yer-face direction from Fuller, who revels in the seedy, frontline setting, and Ryan is well cast in the morally ambiguous lead role (90839234). *

3.25 The Proud Ones (Robert 0 Webb 1956 US). The Robert Ryan triple-bill concludes with a so-so western enlivened by the presence of Walter Brennan and Virginia Mayo (689 1050). .55 TOTP 2 (S) (6380050).

5.40 FIRM The Adventures of Robin Hood (Michael Curtiz, William Keighley 1938 US). Errol Flynn at his swashbuckling best in this happy, Technicolor romp around Hollywood's Sherwood Forest. Cheerful, self-mocking and beautifully cast, with Olivia De Havilland as Maid Marian, Claude Rains as Prince John, Alan Hale as Little John and Basil Rathbone as Guy of Gisboume (17259708). 7.20 What the Papers Say, With Jonathan Cooper of of the Daily Mirror (Then Weather) (S) (31 4857). *

7.30 News and Sport, Weather (109012). 7.45 Big Time. Scrutiny reporter Oinah Lammiman follows the Government's Home Affairs Select Committee as it visits prisons in this country and America, and ponders the future of the British

prison service (180465). 8.25 Tennis. Sue Barker Introduces highlights from the Australian Open In Melbourne (128944). 9.00 Till Death Us Do Part. The Garnetts on holiday in

an episode from 1972, co-starring Spike Milligan as "man on train" (R) (2321). 9.30 Secrets of Lost Empires. Structural engineer Mark Whitby's attempt to discover how Stonehenge was erected (R) (S) (729079). *

10 20 Arena: Dear Antonioni, See Preview, above (6125811) 11.50 ELA L'Avventura (Michelangelo Antonioni 1959 lt/Fr). See The big picture, above (Followed By

Weatherview) (91705692). To 2.15am. REGIONS. Wales: 4.55pm Dad's Army. 5.30 Wales on Saturday, 5.50 Film: The Adventures of Robin Hood.

ITV/London

6.00 GMTV: 6.00 News. 6.10 Mole in the Hole. 6.30 Professor Bubble. 6.50 Sug Alert! 7.10 Oisney's Wake Up in the Wild Room. 8.20 Gargoyles. 8.55 Masked Rider (1697505).

9.25 Scratchy and Co. Dean Gaffney, aka Robbie from EastEnders, drops by for a chat, and there's music from Suede and fictional boy band, The One (S)

11.30 The Chart Show (S) (91499). 12.30 The Making of Star Trek: First Contact. Extensive movie plug (R) (82673).

1.00 News, Weather (96200321). *

1.05 Local News, Weather (96209692). * 1.10 Elias Triumph Over Disaster: The Humicane
Andrew Story (Marvin J Chomsky 1993 US). Let's
put it this way – this slavish, chase-the-headlines
TV movie ain't Twister. Humicane Andrew visited

coastal Florida in 1992, by the way (40202857).

2.50 SeaQuest DSV. They all live in a futuristic submarine (S) (19683857). * 4.45 News and Results (Followed by Weather)

(1455789), *5.05 London Weekend Tonight (1343321). * 5.20 Clueless. Pretty crummy spin-off from Amy Heckerting's gorgeous cornedy about style-obsessed Beverly Hills teenagers (1703586). *
5.50 Sabrina the Teenage Witch. Similar in tone to the above. Sabrina is furious at being labelled a goek

(S) (855708). *
6.15 Gladiators: The Ashes. New series. Great Britain face off against Australia in this three-part tournament (S) (644383). *

7.15 Blind Date (Followed by National Lottery Result)

8.15 Family Fortunes (S) (503302). *
8.45 News and National Lottery Update (Followed by Weather) (216296). *
8.59 Local Weather (797012).

9.00 Place of the Dead. See Preview, above (S) (6012). * 11.00 THE The Good Policeman (Peter Werner 1994 US). Ron Silver plays that cliched creature, the unorthodox but determined New York police commissioner, determined to fight crime whatever the price. Tony Lo Bianco and LA Law star Blair Brown help out (910470). *

12.35 In Bed with Medinner. Bob Mills trawls his way through the TV out-takes (7747616).

1.05 Brotherhood of the Gun (Vern Gillum 1991 US). Western starring Brian Bloom as a Clvi) War hero who abandons a life of crime after a bungled train beist and oots to sample life on the other side of the law. Jamie Rose and David Carradine star (Followed by News Headlines) (S) (338906).

2,45 American Gladiators (S) (4096722). 3.35 Club Nation. Recent events in the club and dancemusic scene (R) (3726987).

4.25 ITV Sport Classics (R) (17794277). 4.55 Cool Vibes (R) (35669345). 5.05 Coach (S) (4312906). 5.30 News (63074). To 6.00am.

Channel 4

6.00 Sesame Street (R) (22963). 7.00 Dumb and Dumber (38437).

7.30 Dermis (R) (7593470). 7.45 First Edition (7598925). 8.00 Trans World Sport (S) (87963). 9.00 The Moming Line (S) (54050).

10.00 Gazzetta Footbali Italia (13128). 11.00 Gazzetta Problem Italia (13126).

11.00 Blitzl Superbowl preview (S) (26692).

12.00 Blitzl Land of the Pharaohs (Howard Hawks 1955 US), William Faulkner, of all people, provided the dialogue for this plodding historical epic that

has pharach Jack Hawkins planning to build a giant pyramid, but reckoning without his scheming wife, Joan Collins. James Robertson Justice is in there somewhere, trying to look Egyptian (S) (328147). *

1.55 Racing from Kempton Park. Brough Scott introduces the 2.10 Shepperton Handicap Hurdle, 2.40 Lanzarote Handicap Hurdle, 3.10 Fulwel) Handicap Chase and the 3.40 Twickenham Novices Chase (S) (61077147).

4.05 The Morehouse Men. Repeat Witness film about the exclusively black Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, whose former pupils Include Martin Luther King and Spike Lee (R) (5513012), *
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S) (4699760). *

6.30 Right to Reply (S) (321), *
7.00 A Week in Politics (S) (5147).

8.00 Fragile Kingdoms. Those over-exposed felines, the "killer cats" - cheetahs, Jaguars, lions, tigers - open this new series of wildlife films (4895). 9.00 The Fragile Heart. 3/3. Maybe Channel 4 thought we didn't get the message of Paula Milne's heart-

surgeon drama first brie round - which is unlikely since it wore it on its sleeve. Perhaps they're just keeping it fresh in people's memories for Bafta birne. An unusually swift repeat, In any case, Nigel Hawthome stars (R) (S) (4833789), * 10.20 Jacknife (Oavid Jones 1988 US), Simple and effective three-hander doesn't quite leave its stage origins behind, but Robert De Niro's terrific

performance makes up for that. He plays a Vietnam veteran who looks up his semi-alcoholic former wartime buddie (Ed Harris) and his quiet, schoolteacher sister, Kathy Baker. Romance and therapy ensue (S) (248505). * 12.15 TV Pizza. What surely has to be one of the easier gigs – trawling through American TV for the wacky and downright mad. This week, Laura Kightlinger

meets Barbara Eden of I Dream of Jeannie mmonality (3) (6953180 L.00 The Girlie Show (R) (S) (2322971).

1.35 Ricki Lake, People who are in on-off relationships (R) (S) (7698744). *

2.15 Beavis and Butt-Head (R) (81068). 2.45 Bless This House (R) (S) (4543180).

3.10 Film Night (R) (S) (32688277). 3.40 The White Room. With Oasis, rap duo Definition of Sound and Joan Osborne (R) (S) (1321971). 4.40 The Beat Specials (S) (2484971). To 5.50am.

ITV/Regions

ARGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (82673). 1.10 Champions of the Future (71171504). 1.40 Carbon Time (31259437). 2.00 Airwolf (1734050). 2.55 sea@uest DSV (2247470). 3.50 Baywatch (7046876). 5.05 Anglia News and Sport (1343321). 12.35am Film: This Gun for Hire (9954616). 2.05am Carnal Knowledge (5916242). 3.05am Film: The Man in the Road (7932971). 4.30-5.30am Funky Bunker (33548).

4.30-5.30am Funky source 153-50.

CHARREL 3 NORTH EAST/TORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and, Videos (82673). 1.10 Cartoon Time (80191321).

1.30 Film: Earth Star Voyager (37243418). 3.50 Baywatch (7046876). 5.10 Channel 3 North East-Full Time (7484019). Yorks: Scoreline (7484019).

1.05am Film: Black Sunday (28623548). 3.40am Funny Business (83324258). 4.10am Collins and Maconie's Movie Club 164737884). 4.35-5.30am Murcler She World (6861548). Murder, She Wrote (6861548).

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm Premiere (82673). 1.10
Champions of the Euture (71171504). 1.40 Movies,
Games (74701418). 2.10 Film: Charley and the
Angel (544383). 3.50 seaQuest OSV (7046876).
5.10 Goals Extra (7484019). 4.25am Jobfinder
(3511345), 5.20-S.30am Asian Eye (5288884).

HTV
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (82673). 1.10 West: Sportsweek (4950499), Wales: Film: The Bionic Showdown (40202857). 1.45 West: Film: The Bionic Showdown (90826760). 2.50 Wales: Carbon Time (2249741). 2.55 Wales: Airwolf (5150383). 3.25 West: Robocop (3139383). 3.55 Wales: Robocop (6707272). 4.15 West: The Ust (239215). 12.35am Film: This Gun for Hire (9954616). 2.05am Camal Knowledge (5916242), 3.05am Film: The Man In the Road (7932971), 4.30-5.30am Funky Bunker (33548).

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (82673): 1.10 Startmasters (6442031), 1.55 Airvolf (8145944), 2.55 seaQuest OSV (2247470). 3.50 Beywalch (7046876), 12.35am Film: This Gun for Hire (9954616), 2.05am Camal Knowledge (5916242), 3.05am Film: The Man In the Road (7932971), 4.30-5.30am Funky Bunker (33548),

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (82673). 1.10 Film: Blood Fiver (97556383). 2.55 Airwolf (2247470). 3.50 seaQuest DSV (7046876). 12.35am Film: This Gun for Hire (9954616). 2.05am Camal Knowledge (5916242). 3.05am Film: The Man in the Road (7932971). 4.30-5.30am Funky Bunker (33548).

As C4 except: 6.00am Sesame Street (22963), 10.00 Board Stupid (8.1031), 10.30 New Gamesmaster (62321), 12.00 Moviewatch (53673), 12.30pm Blacksmith (4722079), 12.55 Six Steps to Heav-Backsmin (4722079). 12.55 SM Steps to Heav-en (8345692), 1.55 Rygbl: Pencampwnaeth y Pum Gwlad (54232789). 6.30 Travelog (321). 7.00 News (231050). 7.15 Codir To (2743050). 8.20 Tro Breizh Lyn Ebenezer (806673). 8.50 Licyrts Osorts (176741). 9.30 Film: Strange Invaders (707673). 11.10 The Mary Millington Story (813147). 1.35-2.30am Ricki Lake Show (7698744).

Radio

Radio 1

(97.6-99.8MHz FM) 7.00am Kevin Greening 10.00 Oave Pearce 1.00 Jo Whiley 4.00 John Peel 7.00 Danny Rampling 9.00 Rap 5how 12.00 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essentia Mix 4.00-7.00am Charlie Jordan

Radio 2

(88-90,200z FM) 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright 1.00 lererny Clarkson's Laughing Gear See Choice, above. 1.30 Smith and Jones Sound Off 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Nick Barraclough 5.00 Reading Music 6.00 The Beautiful South in Concert 7.00 The Ella Fitzgerald Songbooks 7.30 Messrs Gilbert, 5ullivan and Bruce! 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 The Arts Pro-

Radio 3

am Weather: News Headlin 7.00 Record Review 9.00 Suilding a Library, Michael Oliver compares available recordings of Shostakovich's

12.00 Private Passions. Michael Berkeley talks to the celebrar conductor Sir Colin Davis about his favourite musica

moments.
1.00 News; Threads. (3/6).
1.20 Vintage Years: The Philharmonia, Humphrey Burton traces the history of the Philarmonia Orchestra.

3.20 The Finishing Touch. Andrew Watkinson, leader of the Endel-Miro Quartet from the Royal Academy of Music on how to perform Beethoven's String Quar 4.00 Lutoslawski; Music for Strings (Breaking Chains), Live

from St Giles, Cripplegate. Guildhall Sinng Ensemble, Overture for 5trings; Five Folk Melodies: String Quartet; Preludes and Fugue. 5.30 Jazz Record Requests. 7.00 Cherubin, Massenet's three

act comic opera, in a perfor-

Opera House, Covent Garden

introduced by James Naughtie

Cast includes Elizabeth Futral.

Hagley, soprano (Nina). Nicole

Radio 4 197.4-94 GMRC FIA; 1981012 LVA 6.00am News. 6.10 Farming Today.

Choice

Classic car-based sketches presented by the BBC's resident motormouth in Jeremy Clarkson's Laughing Gear (1pm R2, left) - the word you're looking for is "aargh". Tonight's opera is Massenet's Figaro conducted by John Eliot Gardiner, live from Covent Garden, and with Susan Graham in the title role.

Tibbels, soprano (Countess), Susan Graham, mezzo (Cheru (Baroness), Roya) Opera Chorus, Orchestra of the Royal Opera House/John Eliot Gar-diner, Act 1, 17,45-8.05 The diner.) Acts 2 and 3. See Choice, above. 9.35 8lue 5kies. Professor 5teve

Jones explores the many di-mensions of worlds, both real and Imagined. 10.00 Lutoslawski's Carols (Break J.OU Litrosawski's Carols (Break-Ing Chains). Live from S1 Giles, Cripplegate. Claron McFadden (soprano), BBC Symphony Cho-rus Iwomens' voices), BBC Symphony Orchestra/Stephen Jackson, Lutoslawski: 20 Polish

Christmas Carols. 11.15 Impressions. Bryn Morton and Alyn Shipton introduce a specially recorded session which tinngs together two free improvisers - British guitarist Derek Bailey and vocalist Keil

Hamo. 12.30 First Bass. Bass player Ray Brown talks to Alyn Shipton. (1/6). 1.00 Through the Night.

1.01 Jazz from Belgium, 2.10 Nikolai Lugansky (piano), Russian State Academic SO/lgor Golovshin, Rachmani nov: Piano Concerto No 3 in 0 Universe, Tchaikovsky, arr

treal SO/Krzysztof Penderecki. Mendelssohn: Overture: The Hebrides (Fingal's Cave), Pen-derecki: Violin Concerto No 2, Dvorak: Symphony No 8 in G. 5.00-7.00am Sequence.

3.45 Medieval Dance Music.

6.50 Prayer for the Oay. 7.00 Today. 9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4.

9.30 Breakaway 10.00 Loose Ends 11.00 The Week in Westminster 11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. 12.25 Just a Minute. 1.00 News.

1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan Oimbleby's guests are Finan-cial Secretary to the Treasury Michael Jack MP; Green Party representative Peg Alexander; and Bishop of Leicester the Rt Rev Dr Torn Butlei. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 Any Answers.

2.30 Playhouse: The Silk Worm. 40 years ago the United Nalions recognised the principle of an independent Cyprus, but it took three years for the This drama by Mana Vigar tells the story of a young Scottish journalist who becomes indom fighters. With Oavid Bannerman and Frank Kovacs.

4.30 Science Now: 5.00 Consequences. Denys Blakeway considers the reaching impact of the 1981 Brixton nots. S.40 Footnotes S.SO Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 Six O'Clock News

4.00 Prefabulous

6.2S Week Ending. Topical comedy sketch show 6.50 Those Cale Days. (4/5). 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Paul Allen talks to young theatre di-rector Katie Mitchell about her acclaimed productions of Shakespeare, Beckett, Ibsen and Europides, and her latest venture as director of the 5trattord Chamber Theatre: a pro-duction of the English Mystery

7.50 On These Days. 8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: Wild Hops, By Sally Worboyes. With only two weeks remainled the 1959 hop-picking season, Jack and Laura decide they must resolve their marital

crisis, With George Innes and Ellie Haddington. (3/4). 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 10.00 News. 10.15 Volcano. Orama by Peter Wolt in which a mill-owner's wite in Victorian England em-barks on a desperate mission

to climb a volcanic mountain in New Zealand, With Juliet 5tevenson. 11.15 The Blue Room. 11.45 Aesthete's Foot. 12.00 News.

12.30 The Late Story: The Frozen
0 Donovans, By Michael Carson,
12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00-6.00am As World Service. Radio 5

630, 503Hz (M) 6.05am Oirty Tackle 6,30 Srian Hayes at Breakfast 9,05 Weekend 11.05 Top Gear 11.35 The Game's Up 12.05 Baker and Kelly Unfront 1.05 Sport on Five 6.06 5b.-O-Six 8.05 The Treat-ment 9.05 Dallyn UK 10.05 Bnef Lives 10.3S Word Up! 11.00 Night Extra 12.05 After Hours 2.00 Up All Night S.00-6.05am

Morning Reports Classic FM

(19) 0-19) 90K; FBI 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Countdown 12.00 Gardening Forum 1.00 Alan Mann's Packed Lunch 4.00 Jane Markham 7.00 Russian Revelation 8.00 Evening Concert. Schubert arr Liszt: Wandererfantasie in C; Erikonig; Stabal Mater in F minor; Symphony No 5 in C. 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 An-dre Leon 4.00 The Travel Guide 5.00-6.00am Michael Fanstone

(1215, 113)-1260Hz NOV 105.8MH; FNF

6.00am Janey Lee Grace 10.00 Je-remy Clark 2.00 Mark Forrest 6.00

nn Parsons 10.00 Robin Banks 2.00-6.00am Howard Peace **World Service**

Virgin Radio

1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Quote Unquate 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Peo-ple and Politics 3.00 News 3.15 5ports Roundup 3.30 Music Re-view 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Short 5tory 4.45 On the Move 5.00 Newsday S.30-6.00am Weekend

Satellite

7.00am WKRP in Circonnati (43383). 7.30 George (62418), 8.00 Young Indiana Jones Chronicles (16499), 9.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (76296). 10.00 Quantum Leap (51302). 11.00 Star Trek (71166). 12.00 WWF: Blast Off (21586). 1.00 WWF: Challenge (30234). 2.00 Kung Fu: The Legend Communes (37234). 3.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (30760), 4.00 Star Trak: Voyager (59895), 5.00 The Hit Mo. (8789), 6.00 kung Fu: The Legend Continues (10470), 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (60499), 8,00 Coppers (8166), 8,30 Cops I (7623), 9,00 Cops II (55079), 9,30 Cop Files (22215), 10,00 Law and Order (52470). 11.00 The Red Shoe Draries (27296). 11.30 The Move Show (32789). 12.00 LAPD (32631). 12.30

The Lucy Show (96884), 1.00 Dream On (58838), 1.30 The Edge (71277), 2.00-7.00am Hit Mox (34722). 7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (8037895), 8.00 Metrose Place 180/32/59:01, 9.00 Pacific Drive (80/33079), 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (6637499), 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (6646/47), 11.00 Stand and Deliver (7680875). 11.30 Stand and Deliver (5240031). 12.00 6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (9124819).

SKY MOVIES

6.00am The Blue Bird (1976) 190012). 8.00 Scout's Honor (1980) (28585). 10.00 lee Castles (1979) (46895). 12.00 Sweet Talker (1990) (41437). 2.00 Rudyard Kipling's the Jungle Book (1994) (76050). 4.00 Josh and SAM (1993) (6321), 6.00 Thunderball | 196S| (63586). 8.00 Rudyard Kipling's the Jungle Book (1994) (68031), 10.00 The Good Son (1993) (66168), 11.30 Secret The Wrong Man (1993) (699529). 2.55 The OJ Simpson Story (1995) (5310635). 4.25-5.55am Sweet alker (1990) (86147364).

MOYIE CHANKEL

○ **③** ● ○ ●

6.00am Robinson Crusoe (1972) (77437). 7.00 Up in the Air 11968) (31708). 8.00 My Little Pony: The Mone (1986) (26128). 10.00 The Errand Boy (1961) (44437), 12.00 Mi North (1988) (49079), 2.00 My Summer Story (1994) (74692), 4.00 Prehystena! 2 | 1994) (4963). 6.00 Clifford (1994) (61128). 8.00 Blown Away (1994) (66673), 10.00 Kiss of Death (1995) (167166), 11.45 A Good Man in Africa (1994) (795418). 1.20 Kiss of Death (1995) (986567). (1978) 191931801. 4.35-5.00am My Summer Story (1994) (17475093).

CITY MOVIES COLD

4.00cm Pat and Mike (1952) 11983) (23151091), 8.00 The Un touchables (1987) (9774128), 10.00 The Presidio (1988) (1520703). 11.40 Death Wish II (1982) (4921437). 1.20 To Sir. with Love Penious (1944) (3330987), 4.40-5.55am Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd [1952] [94435628].

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am World Sport (98857), 7.30 7.30am Verbir Sport (5837), 7.30 American Sports Cavalcade (40376), 8.30 Racing News (18147), 9.00 The Rugby Cub (68129), 11.00 Hold the Back Page (86012), 12.00 Sports Saturday (40001654), 4.15 Sports Saturday (88318), 1768596, 5.30 NHL (sel Medica), 1768596, 5.30 NHL Ice Hockey (79586), 6.30 Rugby Union Update (90708), 2.30 Bosing - Live (330321), 11.00 Rugby Union Update (70296), 1.00 Spanish Football (13277), 3.00-5.00am Boxing (25258).

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Soccer AM (4837128).
11.00 NHL Ice Hockey (9890437).
12.00 World Pro Figure 5kating (1215895). 1.00 Olympics: Road to Glory (1291215). 2.00 Sports Unlimeted (1587465). 3.00 NHL Ice Hookey (6595079). 4.00 Sports Charles ey (66950791, 4.00 Sports Classics (6674586), 5.00 World Pro Figure Skating (1249031), 6.00 Olympics: Road to Glory (12110791, 7.00 Span ish Football – Live (3991808), 9.30 Futbol Mundial (1283296), 10.00 World Pro Figure Skating (5747550). 11.00 Cricket: Hall of Farne 16675215). 11.30-1.00am Football: World Cup Classics (3569586).

6.00am Agony 6.30 The Fashion Show 7.00 Revelations 7.30 Fate and Fortune 8.00 The Why Files 8.30 Video Bor 9.00 The Psychic Pet 5how 9.30 The Fashion Show 10.00 Revelations 10.30 Agony 11.00 The Psychic Pet Show 11.30 Fate and Fortune 12.00 Garl's Campus Capers 12.30 The Why Files 1.00 Nation Live 1.15 Looking for Love 1.30 The Psychic Pet Show 2.00 The Fashion Show 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and For-June 3,30 Pin Money 4.00 Sport
5.00 Agony 5.30 Eva's Seventies Pop
Show 6.00 The Fashion Show 6.30
Sport 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 Revelations 8.00 The Psychic Pel Show
8.30 Agony 9.03 The Psychic Pel Show 8.30 Agony 9.03 The Fashion Show 9.30 Looking for Love 9.45 The Bottorn Line 10.03 Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 11.03 Fale and Fortune 11.30 The Sex 5how 12.03 Revelations 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30-6.00am Night

CENTRAL

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March of sorrow: Indian women among tens of thousands of workers who paraded through Bombay yesterday to show

respect for Datta Samant, a trade union leader assassinated by four gunmen

Richard Lloyd Parry

An international trade union mission led by the former head of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, Bill Jordan, has been threatened with possible deportation from South Korea next week, raising fears of a diplomatic rift between Seoul and European governments.

Mr Jordan will arrive in Seoul on Monday, accompanied by nine fellow delegates of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), to express support for South Korean unionists who are striking in protest at a recently passed labour law. On Thursday, a more junior four-man ICFTU mission left Seoul after being threatened with expulsion for speaking out in support of the strikers. Diplomats in Seoul fear that any action taken Photograph: Reuters | against Mr Jordan's delegation



Bill Jordan: Determined to do his job and give advice

could escalate to an international level what has so far been a domestic crisis.

According to a government spokesman, private meetings with striking trade unionists who are evading arrest warrants in the grounds of Seoul's Catholic cathedral - will not be considered illegal, but public speeches, press conferences or "activities disturbing public peace and order" will not be tolerated.

S Korea threatens to

expel union mission

Immigration officers will exleaders," Yu Byong Rhang, director-general in charge of immigration at the South Korean Justice Ministry, said yesterday, "There will first be warnings if they violate laws and, if they con-

tinue not to heed them, then they will be deported."

Members of last week's ICFTU delegation addressed huge rallies in Seoul, which has

seen almost daily demonstrations since the controversial labour law was rammed through the National Assembly at a secret session on Boxing Day. The number of stoppages has gone down since Wednesday's general strike call, but yesterday a worker was seriously injured after setting himself alight, the sec-

ond such incident in eight days. The new legislation abolishes workers' legal protection against tay offs, and delays the legalisation of unofficial unions. Four deported, it's the kind of thing leaders of the illegal Korean on which foreign governments

have been arrested.

Seoul argues that the new law will increase Korean competiplain our laws to the new visitors tiveness. But it is regarded in on their arrival in view of the some Western capitals as a beillegal activities by the [previous traval of promises to liberalise delegation of four foreign union union law made by Korea when it joined the Organisation of Eco-nomic Co-operation and Devel-

opment (OECD) last December. Both the content of the legislation and the way in which it was passed raise deep concerns for the democratic process and are a disnurbing throw back to the era of military rule in Korea,"

the ICFTU said in a statement. "I won't do anything that will make resolution of the situation more difficult." Mr Jordan, the ICFTU's secretary general said last night. "But I have to do my job. Our affiliated (members) in Korea pay me to represent them at the internacional level and give

advice in their country." Foreign embassies in Seoul have expressed their concerns about the consequences of any legal action against the delegates. One Western diplomat said: "If they behave reasonably and are

Confederation of Trade Unions would have to speak out." Labour law draws roar of rage from Asian Tiger

Richard Lloyd Parry

As South Korea enters its fourth week of labour uproar. with self-immolations, arrests of unionists, and strikes and riots. it is worth asking a straightforward question: given the apparent vigour of the country's economy and its remarkable growth since the Korean War,

what is all the fuss about? Official predictions for ear are 6 cent, almost one point lower than the year before, but still enviable by European or American standards. In the decade up to 1995, wages in Korea in-creased fivefold. Unemployment also rose recently, but to a mere 2.4 per cent, a fraction of that of Germany. Do South Korea's trade unionists have a genuine grievance, or are they simply clinging to old-fashioned

privileges long been abandoned by their Western comrades? The law whose revision has raised such tumult in Scoul was an anachronistic institution. curiously out of keeping with South Korea's present status as a global manufacturing power. It was originally drafted in 1953, and, despite subsequent revisions, reflected the needs of a much poorer nation struggling to pull itself together in the aftermath of the Korean War.

Its most startling clauses, from a contemporary Western point of view, were the limitations it placed on an employer's right to lay off workers. Like Japan, Korea has a tradition of lifetime employment. For a firm to sack its employees has been seen as not only as an act of economic hardship, hut as a betrayal of the nurturing, paternalistic role which the company is expected to play in the life of its workforce.

Companies were not able to reduce workforces because of slack demand or financial hardship. Apart from specific cases. such as gross incompetence or criminality, it was almost impossible for them to impose redundancies. In case of strikes, firms were

forbidden from hringing in outside labour, and there were limitations on the amount of flexibility in working hours which they could legally expect from their employees. In the 1950s this served to

deflect the burden of social security from an impoverished government on to industry. But the cosy arrangement has increasingly become a hurden that Korean companies cannot afford, now that they are competing not only with Western competitors but with the fastgrowing, low-wage economies of China and South-East Asia. Under the new law, the old .

safety nets have been cut away. parts, Korean workers can now be made redundant on grounds company structure, technologtivity. Non-union strike hreak- national free market.

In with the new, out with the old

Comparison of old and new South Korean labour laws

O: Old Law N: New Law

Political activities

N: Permitted as long as it is not the union's pnmary objective. Redundancy
O: Strict limits on employer's right

N: Employers can lay off workers in case of business downtum, technological changes, and

Working hours
O: Little flexibility.
N: Flexible work schedules allowed. Working hours can be extended up to 56 hours a week as long as average hours do not exceed 44.

Third-party intervention O: Separate unions may not strike in one another's support. Em-

ployers may not bring in substitute workers during strikes. N: Third-party support in strikes and substitute workers permitted. Union recognition
O: Official unions only, limited to

individual work places. No multiple trade unions. N: Workers can freely form and join trade unions – from the year 2000.

ers can be brought in. Working hours can be extended to 56 hours a week as long as they avcrage no more 44 hours, and employers can demand greater flexibility in shift arrangements.

The unions will make certain ains from the new law. Gone is the former bar on union political activity and contributions (although a union will be hanned if its primary objective lies in political or social activities"). In the past, unions were limited to one per company. But eventually employees will be able to organise across industries and professions, and come out in support of their comrades

The problem is that while the bosses will win their new privileges as soon as the new law comes into force on 1 March this year, the unions will have to wait. To avoid "unnecessary confusion", in the government's phrase, free, multiple trade unions will not be allowed to function for another three years. Until the year 2000 only the old, official unions will be recognised. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), which represents 500,000 workers, will remain technically illegal, and its leaders will be vulnerable to prosecution for "interfering with husiness activities".

The manner in which the new law was passed, at a secret session of the National Assembly, attended only hy members of the ruling party, has coovinced union leaders that the law is part Like their Western counter- of a concerted attempt to marginalise them. Many acknowledge that change was mevitable of had husiness, changes in hut that without the right to orcompany structure, technological innovation, and because of feel uncomfortably exposed to the need to increase produc- the harsh weather of the inter-

Professor Geoffrey Gee

With synthetic polymers (plastics and ruhhers) pervading many aspects of modern life, it can be difficult to think back to the 1930s when these "artificial" materials were largely confined to a few resins, such as Bakelife, and regenerated celinlose fibres, such as rayon.

Geoffrey Gee acted in many ways as a guardian of British polymer scieoce, hoth in smoothing the interaction of Government with industry and academe, and in expanding and safeguarding polymer research in British universities. That polymer chemistry forms part of an honours course in chemistry owes much to his influence.

Gee started research at a time when there was still a reluctance to believe that "real" molecules could have molecular weights of 100,000 or more. Starting in 1938, he undertook a comprehensive study of polymer solutions, which removed any doubt about the nature of these new materials. His definition of cohesive energy density as a determinant of solubility gained lasting acceptance. Many years later Gee co-operated with the physicist S.F. Edwards and the chemist G. Allen in initiating the studies which have brought us to a substantial understanding of the properties of polymer fluids.

Gee came from a rural background, his father being a hlacksmith serving the farming communities of New Mills and Disley, in Cheshire. The Wesleyan Chapel was the foundation of a sincere religious belief



Gee; polymer research Photograph: Godfrey Argent

his life. He was introduced to played a part in the creation of chemistry at New Mill Secondary School, and went on to read Chemistry at Manchester read Chemistry at Manchester in Midland, Michigan, spon-in 1928. His introduction to re-sored by the Dow Chemical search was in colloid science (the science of small particles in suspension) at Manchester under D.C. Henry, after which he transferred to Cambridge in 1933, financed by ICI Dyestuffs, to work with Eric Rideal, in a stimulating group which in-cluded H.W. Melville, R.M. Barrer and A.S.C. Lawrence. His connection with ICI inclined his work towards polymers, and eventually led to his appointment at the British Rubber Producers Research Association

The policy of the board of BRPRA was simply defined - to understand rubber through a programme of fundamental research. In addition to work on polymer solutions, studies by Gee's team of elastic behaviour imder various types of deforma-tion, and of the kinetics of oxidative and photo-oxidative degradation of hydrocarbons, produced prosults of lasting value.

His appointment as Director of the produced project of the project o

(BRPRA) in 1938.

of Research of BRPRA in 1947 took him away from the laboratory bench and into administration, although he still found time for a "paper and pencil study" of molten sulphur which anticipated a continuing interest in ring-chain equilibria. This was a time when natural rubber was meeting for the first time the challenge from synthetics, and Gee's achievement was to formulate technical specifications which placed the natural material securely in the family of elastomers, allowing a greater understanding of it in relation to synthetic materials.

In 1953 Gee took up the Chair of Physical Chemistry in Manchester. Within a year he became head of department, a position he occupied for the next 20 years. Here he huilt up a research group in the physical chemistry of polymers: the group continues to the present day as one of the largest and most active in the UK.

As Dean of the Faculty of Sci-

which influenced the whole of ence from 1963 to 1965, Gee the Department of Liberal Studies in Science. A hrief stay Company, gave him a chance for uninterrupted research, which was not to recur until his retirement in 1977: in 1966 he was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor, from which followed a continuing involvement with the foundation and administration of the new John Rylands University Library, the Regional Computing Centre, and the increasingly important University Development Committee. Gee contributed widely to

public and scientific life. Soon after arriving in Manchester he was invited to serve as chairman of the Materials Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Supply, and to lay the groundwork for future liaison between ministry laboratories and universities: He was President of the Faraday Society in 1969-70, and a founding editor of Poly-mer, which became a leading international journal of research.

All his life Gee was an active worker in the Methodist Church, reflecting a steadfast faith untroubled by his scientific insight. He took a particular interest in the relationship between science and religion, and in retirement took a major share in the writing of God of Science, God of Faith (1988).

Colin Price and Colin Booth

Geoffrey Gee, chemist: born Dis-ley, Cheshire 6 June 1930; research chemist, IC1 (Dyestuffs Group) 1933-38; research chemist, British Rubber Producers' Research Association 1938-17, Director of Research 1947-53; FRS 1951. Professor of Physical Chemistry, Manchester University 1953-1955 Sir Samuel Hall Professor of Chemistry 1955-1977 (Emerius) Pro-Vice Chancellor 1966-68, 1972-77: CBE 1958: Chairman Joint Services Materials Advisory Committee 1953-58; President, Faraday Society 1969-70; married 1934 Marion Bowden (one son, two daughters): died Cheadle Hulme 13 December 1996.



Iain Mills

Elected a Conservative MP at his first attempt in 1979, Iain Mills was a robust defender of the interests of his constituents in Meriden, which takes in parts of Solihull and Birming-ham Airport. He loved England and especially Meriden, and was often in the forefront of campaigns warning against incursions into the surrounding green helt. He was cautious about European developments.

A behind-the-scenes man, Mills seldom claimed the limelight and that was true of his important work on the Committee corridor of the House of Commons, where he served diligently on backbench, standing and select committees on such subjects as employment, transport safety, Community trademarks and European legislation. Often he was in the chair, having racing tyre development -

heen appointed by the Speaker as a member of the Speaker's panel of chairmen. A crucial ingredient of his work on committees - and most certainly why he was appointed - was that he was trusted and respected by

all parties represented on them. Born in Hillhead, Glasgow, in 1940, the son of an accountant and company director, he grew up in what was then Rhodesia now Zimhabwe – and was educated at Prince Edward's School in Salisbury, and at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, where he read Chemical Engineering. In 1961 he hegan his service with Dun-lop in Rhodesia, spending three years as a tyre designer, before moving to England as Market-ing Planning Manager and the designer in charge of Dunlop's components. He was also a keen

where he was involved in the detail, and excitement, of Grand Prix racing. He made an important input into the design of the tyres on which Jackie Stewart won the world motor racing title in 1969, 1971 and 1973.

Mills's specialisms in Parliament, within a wide and eclectic range of interests, were the motor industry (he co-chaired the All Party Motor Industry Group) and what are rather clumsily known as intellectual property matters: copyright, patents, counterfeiting. He worked tirelessly to try to get the European Patents Office sited in London, rather than Munich, and in wider ways to stop the penetration of European markets by unsatisfactory and substandard imitation products and

campaigner for animal rights,

goldfish as fairground prizes. His parliamentary work was preceded in politics by assiduous local government service in Staffordshire and in particular in Lichfield, where he served on the district council from 1974 to 1976. He was a hluff and hearty man and a careful friend. He liked a drink and a joke with his

friends when his relentless dai-

and on one occasion tried to ban

schedule was done. Before settling down to the crucial committee burden, which he accepted cheerfully, he had been Parliamentary Private Secretary to Norman Tehhit (1981-87). They worked well together. But ministerial office did not come Mills's way and this may have been a disappointment.

When I hecame his nextdoor neighbour as the MP for the other half of the borough of Solihull he immediately suggested we ignore the convention about not being seen about in another Member's constituency without that Member's consent and I readily agreed. He was an easy and considerate man to work with.

John M. Taylor

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Secretary of the secret

1 - - -. ----

Iain Campbell Mills, politician: born Glasgow 21 April 1940; MP (Conservative) for Meriden 1979-97: PPS to Minister of State for Industry 1981-82, to Secretary of State for Employment 1982-83, to Secretary of State for Trade and Industry 1983-85, to Chancellor, of Ducky of Lancaster 1985-87 hairman, Community Trade Mark Committee 1984-97; Joint Chairman, All Party Motor Industry Group 1992-97; married 1971 Gaynor Jeffries; died Lon-

The Marquesa de Cadaval

No one who has been to an nazy, who look refuge with his open-air concert at the Quinta wife at the Marquesa's house af"We loved his music," she rethis. If he dies in my bed, what offering for her prayers during ing her to stay. The house was who abominated Jews and open-air concert at the Quinta wife at the Marquesa's house afda Piedade – in the misty hills above Lisbon - ever forgets the scene. The performers, accom-panied by birdsong, in a verdant hower: the smartly dressed throng promenading among the statues in the rose-gardens; and a tall, slim woman, leaning on her silver-topped cane, quietly presiding. This was the Marquesa de Cadaval, throwing open her home for the annual music festival she had created. The Sintra Festival is now in its 31st year.

She affected musical history not only in Portugal hut in Europe has a whole - not so much through whom she knew, hut because of whom she helped. from Poulenc to Ruhinstein, from Stravinsky to Daniel Barenboim. Vladimir Ashke-

ter their precipitate flight from Soviet Russia, paid tribute to her as their "mother hen".

Olga Nicolis de Rohilant, descended on one side from Catherine the Great and on the other from a long line of Venetian doges, was born in Turin in 1900. She grew up in a cultivated home where the casual guests included Verdi, d'Annunzio, Diaghilev and Nijinsky. One of her childhood friends, with whom she remained close until his death, grew up to become Pope Pius XII. Cole Porter serenaded her at a har on the Venice Lido; Chaliapin sang for her, Ravel, with whom she later kept up a long correspondence, wrote music for her. Another childhood friend was

called. Thut with us he was very modest. He used to say, 'All my music is good for is making housemaids cry.

At 14, shocked by the realities of war, she joined the Red Cross as a volunteer. Her first foray into musical patronage came when, as a student of 20, she persuaded Ruhinstein to give his services free for the inaugural concert of the Amici della Musica in Florence. One of her most exhilarating memories was of Ruhinstein, Ravel and Stravinsky all staying together at her house.

Her friendship with Stravinsky had a macahre ending. "When he was terminally ill," she told me, "he sent a message that he loved my house so the stepdaughter of Puccini, much that he wanted to die

tarist, 46; The Earl of Carnarvon,

do I do? Do I bum n? I cenami couldn't sleep in it afterwards. And I don't want the widow and his friend Robert Craft hanging about grieving afterwards. So I said, 'I'm sorry, I don't want him to die here. Tell him I hope he gets better." He died elsewhere, and - to her relief - before her message of rejection

She had acquired her house in Sintra through marrying Antonio Alvares Pereira de Melo. the exiled Marquis de Cadaval. It had been a ruin, so she rebuilt it and laid out the gardens. Prematurely widowed at 38, she decided to lurn it into a musical Mecca.

reached him.

When Francis Poulenc organised a performance there of his opera Les Dialogues des

the Second World War, when h had been convinced - as she had been - that he would be killed. She had buoyed him up with parcels of cheese and coffee, to which he responded with parcels of sheet music. Her patronage was eminently practical.

As lime went by, a constant stream of young musicians passed through her doors, each given a room and care blanche to spend their days as they chose. "One day," she recalled, an impresario told me that he was going to make me a present in return for the wonderful times he had had at my house. He said, 'I'm going to send you an unknown artist, who I think you will like. Her name is Jacqueline du Pré.

The Marquesa did not know

ruu or musicians, nut sne immediately hecame the centre of things, playing day and night, and getting cross because when she got up and was ready to play, everyone else was still asleep. A few months later she rang and said she had met someone with whom she was madly in love, and could they

that was where she and Daniel Barenhoim spent their first married weeks. Musical life in Portugal had been a stunted affair until the Marquesa - abetted by the Guibenkian Foundation - erapted on to the scene. She steered a masterly course through the political rapids before, during, and after the "Carnation" rev-

honeymoon in my house?" So

s – to let her impo both, and in large quantities. "1 simply told him, if you want the best, you must let me have my Russians." His condition, which she happily met, was that she should lodge them in her house. and take full responsibility for their hehaviour.

The revolution, she admitted to me, was a shock. "I admired Salazar very much, and am still dedicated to his memory. But things finish!" Whereupon she shrugged, smiled, and walked off into her rose garden.

She was a woman of easy grace, completely devoid of pretension; she enjoyed good health - fortified by wine from her own vineyard - almost unal the end. She died peacefulolution. For her concerts she ly, huoyed up by her religion,



The Marquesa: 'mother hen' Photograph: Michael Church

with her family and friends around her.

Michael Church Olga Nicolis de Robilant, festival organiser: born Turin 17 January 1900; married 1926 Antonio Alvares Pereira, Marquis de Cadaval (died 1938; one daughter, and one daughter deceased);

died Lisbon 21 December 1996.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

GILMOUR: On 20 November 1996, in New York, to Emma and Andrew, a son Xnn, brother for Archie. HESSION: On 15 January, to Brid and

DEATHS

HARRISON: Woodthorpe Jude, aged 31, peacefully in Charing Cross Hos-pital on 16 January. Beloved husband of Allic and father of Ian, Sue, Nick of Ailic and lather of Ian, Sue, Nick, and Sarah, and loving grandfather to their children. Funeral at Mordake Crematorium on Friday 24 January at 10am. Donations, if wished, to Scoliosis Association (UK), c/o Cooperative Funeral Service, 162 King Street, London W6 0QU, Telephone 0181-748 2982.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Birds, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversuries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 650 a line (VAT extra). are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements inotices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line. VAT extra. Pleas a daytime telephone oumber.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Princers Royal, Patron, Scattish Rughy Union, attends the Scotland v Wales In-ternational Rugby Match at Murrayfield, Edunburgh.

Changing of the Guard Changing of the Guard
TODA's The Household Cavalry Mounted
Regation maints the Queen's Life Guard at
Horse Guards, Ham. TOMORROW: The
Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment
mounts the Queen's Life Guard of Horse
Guards, Hun; 1st Battalion Scots Guards
mounts the Queen's Quard, at Backingham
Palsee, H. Atum, band provided by the Welsh
Guards.

Birthdays

hooorary racing manager to the Queen, 73; Sir Jonathan Clarke. TODAY: Chief Emcka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Common-wealth, 64; Air Marshal Sir Alfred Ball, 76; Mr Robert Banks MP, 60; Mr Peier Beardsley, footballer, 36; Dr David Bellamy, botanist, 64; Sir Michael Bett, First Civil Service Commissioner, 62; Mr John Boorman, film director, 64; Mr Raymond Briggs, author and illustrator, 63; Mr David Burke, Chief Constable, North Yorks, 58; Mr John Carr, former chairman, Countryside Commission of Scotland, 70; Mr Kevin Costner, actor, 42; Mr Richard Dunwoody, racing driver, 26; The Hoo Sir Roc-co Forte, chairman, Forte, 52; Mr Paul Freeman, actor. 54; Sir William Goodhart OC, 64; Mr David Grant, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Durham, 75: Miss Dawn Guinness, former headmistress of Felixstowe College, 51; Sir James Hann, chairman, Scottish Nuclear, 64; Sir William Harding, former diplomat, 70; Sir Robert Hicks MP, 59; Sir Terence Higgins MP, former Olympic athlete, 69; Mr John Hougham, chairman, ACAS, 60; Mr David Howell MP, 61; Mr John Hume MP, 47; The Earl of Wennyss and March, MEP, 60; Mr Edward James, former former president, National Trust for diplomat, 80: Dame Jennifer Jenk-Scotland, 85; Mrs Margaret Wingins, former chairman, the National field, former President of the Liberal Trust, 76; Mr Paul Keating, prime Party and of the National Council of minister of Australia, 53: Mr Martin Laing, chairman, John Laing, 55; Sir Godfray Le Quesne, Judge of Courts

Sir Peter Preston, former civil servant, 75: Mr Mark Rylance, artistic director, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. 37; Sir Nigel Strutt, farmer and landowner, 81; Sir Walter Verco, former secretary, Order of the Garter, 90; Sir Ralph Verney, former vice-Lord Lieutenant of Bucks, 82; Sir Clive Whitmore, former Permaneou Under-Secretary of State, Home

of Appeal, Jersey and Guernsey, 73:

mer director, Exchange and Trade Relations Dept, IMF, New York, 71. TOMORROW: Mr Desi Arnaz Jnr, actor, 44; Mr Peter Atkinson MP, 54; Miss Nina Bawden, novelist, 72: Mr Dewey Bunnell rock singer and gui-

Office, 62; Sir Alan Whiltome, for-

former circuit judge, 67; Mr Michael Crawford, actor and singer, 55; Mr Bernard Dunstan, painter, 77; Mr Stefan Edberg, tennis player, 31: Mr Rod Evans, rock singer, 52: Mr Phil Everly, rock singer, 58; Mr Walter Goldsmith, chairman, Flying Flow-ers, 59; Mr William Hayden, former an and chief executive, Jaguar, 68- Mr Hans Hotter, bass baritone, 88; Sir Alex Jarratt, former chairman, Smiths Industries, 73; Mr Richard Lester, film director, 65; Brigadier Helen Meechie, former Director, WRAC, 59; Mr David Newbigging. chairman, Faupel Trading Group, 63; Mr Nigel Nicolson, author, 80; Mr Robert Palmer, rock singer and guitarist, 48; Miss Dolly Parton, coun try music singer and actress, 51; Senor Javier Perez de Cuellar, former secretary-general of the UN, 77; Mr Bryan Pringle, actor, 62; Sir Si-mon Rattle, orchestral conductor, 42; Mr Charles Smith, managing direc-tor, Chevron UK, 67; Sir John Stanley MP, 55; Mr Dennis Taytor, snooker player, 48: Mr Gary Titley MEP, 47: Mr David Tredennick MP,

Women of Great Britain, 85.

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: Charles-Louis de Secondat, Baron de Montesqui philosopher. 1689; Peter Mark Roget, leticographer, 1779; Charles John Kean, actor, 1811; Joseph Farwell Glidden, inventor of a barbed wire machine, 1813; Alan Alexander Milne, author, 1882; Arthur Mitchell Ransome, writer of children's books, t884; Oliver Norvell Hardy, comedian, 1892; Cary Grant (Archibald Alexander Leachl, actor, 1904; William Sansom, author, 1912. Deaths: Jan van Riebeck, founder of Cape Town, 1677: Edward George Earle Lytton Bulwer-Lytton, first Baron Lytton, author, 1873; Joseph

Rudyard Kipling, author, 1936; Syd-Hugh Todd Navlor Gaitskell, statesman, 1963; Sir Cecil Walter Hardy Beaton, designer and photographer, 1980; John Frederick, Baroo Wolfenden, social reformer, 1985. On this day: Lima, capital of Peru, was founded by Pizarro, 1535: Captain Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii), 1778. Today is the Feast Day of St Peter's Chair. Rome, St Desle or Deicolus, St Prisca or Priscilla and St Votusian.

TOMORROW: Births: James Walt inventor of the modern condensing steam engine, 1736; Edgar Allan Poe, author and poet, 1809; Sir Henry Bessemer, engineer, 1813; Paul Cézanne, painter, 1839. Deaths: William Congreve, playwright, 1729; Isaac D'Israeli, writer, 1848; Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, journalist and so cialist, 1865. On this day: King Edward Itt established the Order of the Garter, 1348; John Wilkes was expelled from the House of Commons seditious libel, 1764; the Duke of Wellington took Ciudad Rodrigo, 1812: the coast of Antarctica was discovered, 1840; Verdi's Il Transtore was first performed. Rome 1853; the Japanese invaded Burma, 1942; Indira Gandhi became prime minister of todia, 1900. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of Saints Abachum and Audifax, St Albert of Cashel, St Canute IV of Denmark, St Charles of Sezze. St Fillan or Foelao, St Germanicus, St Henry of Uppsala, Saints Marius and Martha. St Messalina, St

Lectures

TODAY British Mu me George Hart, "The Temples and Tombs of Tanis". t.15om. National Portrait Gallery: Frances Homan, "Towards the Royal Acidemy: public space for art in 18th-cen-tury England", 3pm.

Nathalan and St Wuttstan.

TOMORROW National Portrait Gallery: Valence Grove and Anne Harvey, "Dodie Smith 1896-1990". 3pm.

Private interests – public welfare?

Three months ago the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales produced their statement, The Common Good. It is much the best piece of political theology to have appeared in Britain in many years. But it works better as a judgement on the past than as a guide to the future. A little mild dissent seems in order.

The hishops rightly condemn the scolding rhetoric of greed that the British have endured in recent years. They protest that there is more to life than money, and that our lives and our values have been too thoughtlessly hurled into the marketplace. They insist that there is a common ground on which we can huild a shared. moral, public life. They proclaim that in Christ God has made all humanity one flesh, and that all social relationships should be shaped accordingly.

All this is becoming familiar, and much praised. The document is drawn from the strong tradition of Catholic social teaching, and the bishops are modestly proud that these ideas have helped shape the current consensus in the European Union. But this consensus is now in trouble. The Common Good is surprisingly parochial in this regard; it takes almost no account of current European realities. Two examples make the point.

Just as The Common Good was launched nearly half a million Belgians took to the streets of Brussels in protest against the ills of their society. Jan Kerkhofs, the eminent Belgian Jesuit, reported this "White March" in the Tablet. He revealed a Belgium which is cosily corporatist, relatively Catholic - and deeply corrupt. The Common Good implies conlinually that there is something specially immoral about a Britain more caught up in the toils of the marketplace than Belgium. This is unwise.

Second example. The Germans are justly proud of a society which has sustained both profitable businesses and an elabo-

faith reason

'The Market where possible, the State where necessary,' said John Smith. The Rev John Kennedy, a Methodist, thinks

that the Catholic bishops have missed their target.

rate system of social helonging. Making money and doing good worked logether. The German churches have created political theulogy around this Social Market; they have been much clearer than the Catholic hishops that the pursuit of selfinterest serves the common good. Now that social order is in serious disarray, and the German churches are deeply involved in a ficree debate about Germany's future. The whole system is under great stress, but the Germans have a great advantage over us - they can't blame

Margaret Thatcher. The crisis does not arise from government imposition of market values. Nor is it just a matter of paying for the integration of the former East Germany. It arises from the sheer difficulty of maintaining commercial success and social cohesion in a fast-changing world.

The Common Good might well create a dehate in Britain as robust as the one started by the German churches. But its attitude to the ethics of self-interest is too uncertain. The hishops refer loosely to the evils of "laissez-faire capitalism", but fail to acknowledge that British levels of public expenditure are not greatly lower than European averages. At one point they appear to accuse poor old Adam Smith

of idolatry, dogmatism and superstition. This is rather parochial; the Germans have long seen Smith as the morning star of the Social Market, who first suggested that a market economy can enhance rather than undermine social cohesion. The hishops make much of structural sin, which is fine: hut they attach the idea almost wholly to the market, barely at all to the Church, nor to public bureaucracies in general.

This weakness is evident in one of the document's proclaimed strengths. It describes at length the impressive engagement of the Church in welfare provision in Britain. But Catholic involvement in commercial activity is unmentioned. There is a great crowd of Catholic entrepreneurs in my part of London who simultaneously serve their own interests and the common good. They are not adequately celebrated in this document. It just is not true that private interests harm the poor, and public welfare helps them. Poor people do better as customers of Kwik Save than as

supplicants to Hackney Borough Council. How then shall we be saved? The English and Welsh hishops might consult two Scottish Smiths. They might first reread Adam, who comes close to immolation in this document. They might also recall John Smith, who years ago insisted that a tougher world economy demands sharper attention to the moral validity of self-interest. He put this succincily in a speech at Southwark Cathedral back then - "The Market where

possible, the State where necessary." Tony Blair's Christian Socialists may soon have the opportunity to implement this Gospel according to John They might usefully talk to the German churches about the market - and to the Belgians about structural sin. The Common Good provides a fitting epitaph upon the craelties of Thatcherism. But it is not yet an adequate moral guide to the future politics of Europe.

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A meritocracy that makes a mockery of toil

hy does Chris Evans earn £5m a year? Why did Nicola Horlick earn £1m a year? Are they worth it? Are their earnings morally justifiable? These are questions that have been asked at least since the time Plato set a ratio of four-to-one between the wealth of the richest and that of the poorest citizen as the rule for his wellordered republic. They are questions our society bas largely ceased to ask itself, paradoxically in precisely the 18-year period when incomes at the top end of the scale have escalated out of all proportion to what went before.

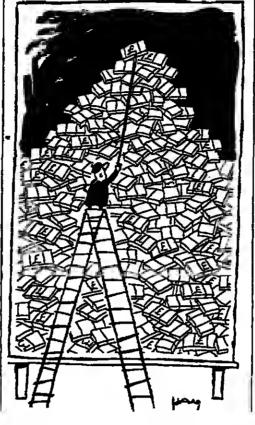
What Mr Evans and Mrs Horlick have in common, apart from being dumped by their employers this week, is that they work in starled industries. Mr Evans, the Radio 1 disc jockey and television personality, enjoys near-universal fame – or notoriety. "Radio's most revolting man" (Daily Mail), idol of rehellious youth, object of derision for sophisticated youth. Mrs Horlick, on the other hand, was a star in the closed and specialised field of pension fund management, and is now chiefly famous oot just for that, but for combiniog it with her role as mother of five children. (Note that her husband, Tim, another City high-flier with Salomon Bros, is not known as a father-of-five "superman".)

As a society, we have long made exceptions for entertainers. The star system, invented in Hollywood, was about marking certain people out as utterly different from the rest of us. exempt from the rules that governed either our incomes or our private morality. But, as the star system has spread into a range of other activities, and has increasingly become the way rewards are allocated, it has had a dis-

torting effect on notions of fairness. It was not so long ago that the idea of "the rate for the joh" was dominant in wage set-ting, not just for routine workers, but for footballers, lawyers and even newspaper columnists. Footballers would be paid by the game, lawyers by the hour and columnists by the word, on a series of fixed scales. Now all that has gone, and the rate for the job throughout the economy has largely been replaced by the language of market forces and compet-ition. Stars in all fields are paid whatever price they can command in the market, and lesser mortals are much more aware of what their corner of the labour market will bear.

But there is a confusioo here which it is worth setting aside. We believe in free markets, and we accept that Mr Evans and Mrs Horlick have heen paid what their employers think they are worth. That does not make their seven-figure incomes "fair". For one thing, their jobs have been priced in a rigged market, full of cultural and institutional obstacles to free movement. The BBC is a quasi-monopoly provider; pensions fund management is a highly specialist industry in transition.

There are, however, much larger forces in



play here. Michael Ignatieff, in his forth-coming Radio 4 series, A View of the Century, argues that one of the defining themes of this century is the mass aspiration to individual creativity. This may be a broad simplification, but it is an important insight. It is only in the 20th century that everyone in rich industrialised countries can aspire to self-fulfilment through their own creativity. In this American century, creativity is fame and fame is mooey. Young meo on council estates in Manchester can hope to become rich and famous if they have a talent to entertain. Mr Evans's success is deeply subversive of meritocracy: what is the point of paying attention in class, passing your exams and staying out of trouble if someone with a wacky sense of humour or someooe who plays computer games all the time ends up earning hundreds of times as much as the respectable toiler?

Mrs Horlick's success is different. Not only does she come from a privileged background, hut she benefited from meritocracy to start with One of the reasons why there are so many womeo - relatively speaking - in her field is because performance is highly transparent, and promotion is less dependent on male politics. But once you become a star in any City sector your salary is hid up exponentially because of your scarcity value. And the spread of the star system is dangerous not just to meritocracy, but to a feeling of fairness, and the value of community. Companies know that | during the course of this year.

some differences in salary are necessary and acceptable, but that excessive differences can make team-working difficult. One of the problems Mrs Horlick ran into was that the star system breaks down corporate loyalties: her alleged crime was to be planning to defect to a rival bank with 20 of her staff.

"No individual is bigger than the interests or superior performance that has been achieved for clients over the past years as a result of a concerted team effort," said a Morgan Grenfell memo yesterday. "No one is big-ger than Radio 1," said Matthew Bannister, the station's controller. They sound like the harsh disciplinarians of faceless bosses through the ages, but they make an important point. The breakdown of the old "rate for the job" mentality is a good thing. But we should now start being more concerned about fairness.

That is what Tony Blair appeared to be gropiog towards with his "stakeholder" rhetoric last year, although the word was more successful in driving people away from the subject than in stimulating argument. We know, however, that this subject has curreocy: John Major admitted, in one of his early clashes with the new Labour leader, that the government had a responsibility to reduce inequality. In the two years since then, he has not been asked what he meant. We hope that the question of fairness will become an election issue, and more than an election issue,

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

European tax union is bound to follow from a single currency | Real benefit

Sir: Proposals to unify European tax rates (report, 16 January) should be no surprise. As a matter of economic logic, tax unioo is an inevitable

consequence of monetary union. Countries outside a monetary union can use exchange rates to offset their ups and downs. For example, bad-weather failure of the fruit crop would cause severe economic hardship throughout Spain. But then the peseta would fall, to visit Spain or buy Spanish goods, and balance would be restored.

A member of a monetary union does not have this option. It may try to revive things by taxing less and spending more, but that takes time to work and just stores up problems for the future. No, its only real hope would be to campaign for large welfare transfers from the union.

Thus when US states suffer - wheo Florida's fruit crop is ruined by frost, for example - they can do little more than petition for federal disaster area" status, so that they qualify for federal support. Faced with hardship among the citizens of a member state, the EU authorities could hardly resist such an appeal, with EU

taxpayers footing the bill. A coherent stabilisation policy for the unioo would require a coherent tax policy.

In other words, a single currency implies a single welfare policy and a single tax policy. So these proposals for a single tax regime should not surprise us, and we should expect proposals for a single European welfare policy in due course. Dr EAMONN BUTLER Director Adam Smith Institute London SW1

Sir. Your headline "Now Britain faces single European tax system" (16 January) illustrates the dilemma the Government has got itself into by frustrating the development of democracy within Europe.

The Government chooses to deal through the Council of Ministers, an unelected body, strong in personalities and Franco-German interests. It has given strength to the Council of Ministers at the expense of the European Parliament and even of the European Commission. The Council, namely Helmut Kohl and Jacques Chirac, have perforce led the opposition to John Major's

equivocations and responded by hard political manoeuvring.

A more positive approach from Britain would lead to a more democratic and a looser federal system embodying the principle of subsidiarity. EDMUND CRITCHLEY Blackburn, Lancashire

Sir: I received the Referendum Party circular the other day. I was struck, as I am with most Euro-sceptic addresses, by the apparently casual use of "the United Kingdom", "this country" or "Britain" when discussing a possible distancing of

ourselves from (the rest of) Europe. Surely they cannot imagine that Scotland and Wales would follow England out? They do quite well out of Europe, and the usual threat of having their legislature in another country won't work - they have had that situation for centuries.

Whatever one's views on EU membership or development, it has to be assumed that saying goodbye to one union means saying goodbye to the other. Wallington, Surrey

Sir: John Redwood (article, 17 January) says: "If you share a currency with another country you have to share many other things as well." But look at the United States. Firms and people happily move from one US state to another to take advantage of better legal and tax conditions. One can be in a federal union with a common currency and still have a lot of control over revenue-raising and spending.
G WILLIAMS

Sir: Will closer integration with Europe mean we get more Bank Holidays (UK eight, other EU countries nine, 10 or 11)? And if so, where would it go?

How about some time in mid-to

late January? Three weeks after the New Year, that extra holiday could be a life-saver, with dismal weather and short days, everyone has a tendency to feel depressed.

In addition, skiers would get another weekend on the piste, and Muslims might get a Bank Holiday at the end of Ramadan.

of the Lords

Sir: Vernoo Bogdanor says ("Let's root out the rot in our sickly constitution", 8 January) that there is probably more wisdom to be foood in the local pub than in the House of Lords. The Second Chamber, he claims, is "feeble" and allows "omnicompeteot government".

The House of Lords is not ideal as a revising chamber and its composition needs reform. But to claim that it has no effect at all as a hrake oo headstroog governmeot flies in the face of the facts.

The Conservative government has been defeated in the Lords against the odds - 231 times since 1979. The Lords have acted as a constitutional brake.

On the Bill to abolish the Greater London Council and metropolitan counties, they prevented the Government from caocelling elections in order to replace elected councillors with

Two years ago, they frustrated Michael Howard's plans to remove police authorities from local democratic control.

There have been real effects for real people. Divorced womeo will have hetter peosion rights because of the Lords. Disabled people have wider protectioo against discrimination. Local authority teoants have a vote before developers set up Housing Actioo lirusts oo estates.

School governors cannot choose their own inspectors. Pupils with special educational needs have strooger rights.

Elderly people are more likely to have been able to reot a specially adapted home. All of us have more access to oatinual sporting events on television without having to pay.

Last year, the Lords published a very successful report oo . ceotral/local government relations, which has marked a new start in that area. The original idea came from a ooted constitutionalist who argued that the Lords was ideally placed to act as a "chamber of experts". Why has Vernoo logdanor changed his mind? DAMIEN WELFARE

Carey and jobless: a question of timing

London NI

Sir: Andrew Brown reports ("Bishops vote oo taking a political stand", 15 January) that a senior adviser to the Archbishop of Canterbury tried to "squash" the forthcoming report on unemployment and the future of work by an ecumenical churches' sponsoring group set up by the Council of Churches for Britain and

There have been discussions about the timing of the report's publication and launch, now set for early April. This is entirely the responsibility of the sponsoring group, taking account of advice from various quarters. That

LESLEY PERRY Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary for Broadcasting, Press and Communications Lambeth Palace London SE1

Vote for Diana

DAVID KNIGHT Penzance, Comwall

LETTER from THE EDITOR

wo serious matters this week, both of which will have offended some readers. First, there were 20 or so letters complaining about the headline oo 8 January following the Carlton monarchy debate. which highlighted the third of those who rang in registering anti-monarchy views, not the two-thirds of pro-monarchists. Many of you suggested that it was *The Independent*'s republi-can bias showing through. Not so; though we dn have a bias against reporting Diana and Fergie-type stories, and have both republicans and monarchists on the staff, the daily paper has not taken a position on the issue. The headline reflected the opinion that it was the size of the minority view that telephone poll. Similarly, if a surprise candidate did very well in a parliamentary by-election

("Scargill candidate wins 30 per cent") one might highlight that,

as against the expected winner. No excuses, though, oo the second issue: in yesterday's paper, our headline said, 'Labour kills millennium show". Which it certainly was doing as we went to press on that edition. But then, following late-night and small-hours-ofthe-morning haggling, Labour seem to have backed off; they may not be striving officiously to keep the Greenwich show alive, hut oor are they killing it. The project, amended and limping, may yet go ahcad after all. Colin Hughes, the deputy editor, rang me in the morning and summed the situation up fairly: "I thought it was a pretty good front page," he said, "... if you ignore the fact that the main headline was untrue." Well, headlines are often overtaken by eveots. But ... er.

Following our recent reflections on the importance of editorial independence through the general election, there was a very long editorial in The Times oo the same subject. It promised its readers that it, too, would give "the most independent analysis" and that "we have not reached our verdict in advance". And, of course, their verdict will stay in the balance ... right until the moment when a certain Australian-American geotleman makes his mind up, lifts the

phone, and barks. Their editorial was headed "The Masters Now". It should have read, of course, "The Master's Voice".

Now then. What has been missing from the land-mine controversy is a little lateral thinking. We know, partly thanks to the campaigning of Princess Diana and assorted ex-military good-doers, that huge numbers of these are exported by the West. They are sold for fat profits to Third World governments and assorted rebels, and destroy tens of thousands of lives. This is decounced as a shameful trade, and so it is. But it continues, and the West now

"The Times' promised that it, too, would give 'the most independent analysis' of the election ...

right until a certain Australian-American makes his mind up

returns to the countries hecause we are also expert at mine clearance and the design and fitting of false limbs. This means that charities and (through government agencies) Western taxpayers, are struggling to clear up after their own job-created arms exporters.

So why shouldn't we shortcircuit the whole process, saving both time and money: the oext time an African war is getting underway, the leaders of leading mine-exporting countries, such as Italy, should simply ask the relevant local polincians to round up and send oorth a few thousand peas-ants, including a fair distributioo of old people, womeo and children. Then we can amputate their legs under deceot, clean surgical cooditions, fit false ooes, and seod them home again? We would, of course, have to pay the arms companies for their loss of useful trade, but as we are effectively subsidising them already, who could possibly object? It's such a modest proposal ...

Andrew Marr

Ireland. This is completely untrue.

is, however, a quite separate issue from the substance of the report itself.

Sir: We have a prime minister who won't ban land-mines, and a princess who would - long live democracy!

It's horrific, isn't it. This puts everything into perspective - Diana, Princess of Wales, after visiting child victims of land-mines in Angola Even if life did exist elsewhere, we might not recognise it. Absence of evidence won't be evidence of absence - Professor Sir Martin Rees, Astronomer Royal

QUOTE UNQUOTE

There is an unconscious aggression on the part of the cougher. I doo't know why they do it. No one coughs in other countries -Harold Pinter, playwright, on audience behaviour in the theatre

The Spice Girls are more interesting because they disprove this theory that the young cannot remember the horrors of a Labour

administration - Bernard Jenkin, Tory MP

The last thing you need on a tough expedition is an eccentric. We select people for our expeditions who are completely levelheaded and stable. If we spot any eccentricity, we try to beat it out - Sir Ranniph Fiennes, explorer

Most London houses have anorexia, tall and skinny like their owners. I'd never looked up so many noses till I came here - Kathy Lette, Australian novelist

We have done our whack. We've increased productivity with fewer men - but it's not enough for Ford - Peter Taylor, production worker 45, commenting on news that 1,300 jobs are to be axed at Ford's Halewood plant



Michael (1254)

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Dogs are a lifeline for the homeless

Sir: The National Canine Defence League (NCDL) - the UK's largest dng welfare charity -was delighted to read about Lady Apsley's support for Oliver Lomasney and his dog, Ryan ("And oow, for a change, good oews to prove that people have a heart", 17 January). The piece highlighted the importance of homeless people having a companioo animal, often a lifeline and only friend.

The NCDL Hope Project provides preventive veterinary health care (vaccinations, worming and neutering) at its monthly outreach clinics to ensure that the dogs on the streets benefit from good care, regardless of their owners' circumstances. These dog-owners are amongst the most caring and their pets are very well looked after.

Often homeless people cannot find accommodation that allows pets, forcing the owner to make an agonising decision between losing their dog or getting a roof over their head.
Understandably, many people cannot bear to part with their best friend.

CLARISSA BALDWIN NCDL Chief Executive London ECI

Musical climaxes

Sir: So you mean that Jilly Cooper is so inexperienced as never to have bonked on a glockenspiel? "Percussionists do it standing up", 16 January.) By heck, but I remember when in the old days a married couple of my acquaintance were almost deafened while bonking inside one of the timpani during a performance at the Festival Hall of Nielsen's Second Symphony. Elsewhere, a year or so later, seven of us made a hell of a mess of a set of cymbals; I think the music was Beethoven, but I honestly cannot

remember. PAUL BARNETT Exeter, Devon

Ford carp

Sir: One can only applaud Ford for their remarkable sensitivity in starting an advertising campaign today (16 January) with the copy "Work less and you'll be richer." No doubt this kind of public domain counselling for laid-off workers from Halewood will be seen as a trend-setter. MATTHEW FOX Southsea, Hampshire



Stricken island let down by Britain

Sir. I recently went to Montserrat, to paint the volcano which has been erupting for 16 months. This has had a devastating effect on the people and infrastructure of this tiny Caribbean island.

Their only town, Plymouth, has been evacuated and their touristbased ecocomy has collapsed. The south end of the island, where most cultivation took place, has been abandoned. Of the 12,000 population only 7,000 remain, the rest scattered through the Caribbean and to Britain. Montserrat is a British colony, but

I'm ashamed to say that this distinction does not seem to have afforded them much advantage in their time of great oced.

Many of the Mootserratians have been evacuated to the north of the island, but have nowhere to live. The solution has been to convert churches, and to erect metal warehouse buildings. When these arrived they had oo windows, sanitation or cooking facilities; so these had to be cobbled together by

the local government.

Spasmodically for the past 16 each been inhabited by 40 or 50 people living dormitory-style, their beds 2ft apart. They have no privacy, bring no possessions. These squalid conditions are destroying their families.

Many Montserratians live in modest wooden houses set in small gardens, which they cultivate. Very

for the evacuees.

mooths, and continuously since April 1996, these unsuitable buildings have no family areas; they were allowed to

little attempt seems to have been made to provide this simple necessity Uoemployment is now at a high

level, and around 70 per cent of the population live on food stamps and a rudimentary social security system. Building houses and clearing land would provide work and housing. The British government bears a large responsibility for this state of

affairs. We have apparently allocated £23m to the island for disaster relief but it is hard to see much evidence of it being wisely spent, except oo the excellent team of British vulcannlogists. We maintain a governor in a chauffeur-driven Range Rover. Prestige projects are planned, consultants take their fees, but nothing changes for the evacuees TONY FOSTER Tywardreath, Comwall

It's lonely at the top with the CV of a confirmed 'nerd'

Sir: Charlie Skelton's article on listing hobbies in your CV ("Sky divers need not apply", 16 January) makes disturbing reading for confirmed loners like me (hobbies: gardening, sitting in libraries for hours, Internet discussion groups, hill-walking in New Zealand).

To redress the balance, I would like to point out that not all loners are problematic in the context of employment. Indeed, annoying though it may be to scientists who resent the "nerdy" stereotype, our personality type is rather better suited to many types of scientific research (where dedicated interest in a very focused

area, perhaps devoid of "human interest", is often necessary) than are those of more "well-rounded peoplepersons". I like to think that loners and people-persons complement each other, both types having their value in different circumstances. PETER RICHARDSON Milton, Cambridgeshire

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are anable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

The Crown points to the penalty spot

In a week that saw courtroom allegations of match fixing rock the foundations of one of the fiercest competitions in the world, **Michael** Streeter asks: just how do you prove a deliberate mistake?

was unsure whether that they agreed to help fix the results of matches in return for sums possibly as high as him to take part in the eighthim to take part in the eight-week trial, Mr Justice Tuckey interjected: "I'll take a bel on you." The laughter echoed around Winchester Crown Court, as he quickly corrected himself. "Sorry, I will not take

a bet on you ..."
The judge had seen the funny side of it, and had unin-tentionally touched on the issue lying at the heart of the foolballing trial of the century, involving three former Premier League footballers: John Fashanu, Bruce Grobhelaar and Hans Segers. After David Caivert Smith QC took three days to open the complex prosecution case — a painstaking process described even by the judge as an "ordeal" — at least one theme has emerged: how in the early Nineties are Far Eastern gambling syndicate was appargambling syndicate was apparently not prepared to accept the normal hazards of betting on

the results of sporting fixtures.
Instead, the Indonesian group – about whom little has so far emerged, apart from the alleged actions of the fourth defendant, Heng Suan Lim involved a stake on a football already "knew" match thousands of miles away in the cold of an English winter whose (likely) result they already knew.

Just how this could be achieved in one of the mostcompetitive football environments in the world, the Premier League, would clearly be a problem for anyone ... unless somehow they received some

inside help. the first tussles in the play-Fast forward to the current ground, could try to lose.

s courtroom slips defendants - two of them are goalkeepers, significantly, say the Crown - and the allegation much the syndicate staked or won on these matches, but the scale of rewards said to be available to the players alone provides a clue.

If the allegations are proven, the implications are almost unthinkable for football fans. That as supporters shiver in the stands on windswept, wet afternoons, the tackling, shooting, passing and blocking going on hetween 22 men on the field in front of them may he an illusion. That somewhere out there, one idol of the terraces is fighting hard not to make sure your team wins - but to help them lose.

Moreover, the "soft" goal you mosn about on the way home was not an infuriating but (eventually) forgivable mistake, rather a calculated error committed by a player who rejected the informal code of the professional sportsman inside himself, lured by the call of what Grobbelaar allegedly referred to as the "greenback". Even worse, as a direct consequence someone sitting thousands of wanted the ultimate gambler's miles away rakes in a fat profit delight: a sure-fire bet which from a game whose result he

> Even the "blinding" saves may not be quite what they seem. The court was told that Grobbelaar dived the wrong way against one shot, but that stubbornly the hall "hit my hand". What makes this prospect so shocking is the idea - as yet unproven - that any professional footballer, their competitive instincts honed since

Grohhelaar, the intensely competitive Zimbabwean, is supposed to have summed up this dilemma in conversation with his former friend and business partner Chris Vincent. Bemoaning his inability to stop pulling off saves even during the "chucked" matches, he told Mr Vincent: "I'm my own worst enemy on that. Because I know I do not like to lose. It's instinc-

A number of football matches have been fingered by the prosecution as suspect games after which money was paid, or was due to be paid, to the fixers if the result was right. One was the celebrated Liverpool/Manchester United game on 4 January 1994, a game that was described even in the dry atmosphere of the

courtroom as "marvellous", and which ended in a thrilling 3-3 draw, Grobbelaar is said to have told Mr Vincent that two brilliant saves in the second half cost him £125,000.

Hans Segers, a Dutchman who played in goal for the unfashionable Premier League side Wimhledon, is claimed to have stashed a total of £104,000 in a Swiss bank account under the name Gloves 1 after at least 12 matches lost by his

One of these was a crucial stay in the lucrative surroundings of the Premier League.

They did. 3-2. John Fashanu, a former striker with Wimbledon and Aston Villa, is accused of pocketing £61,000 after two games.

But despite the central importance of these matches to the case, the Crown will not show the jury how the suspect goals in these allegedly thrown" matches were scored. The only exception was Grobbelaar's failed effort to and just after football matches, stop a shot from Coventry City and sums of money later given striker Dion Duhlin when the goalkeeper was playing for dants, all of whom deny the Southampton - he has since moved to Plymouth Argyle - in

by an accidental or deliberate mistake. With what may have been a gentle sideswipe at television pundits. Mr Calvert Smith said there were always goals scored where afterwards with the benefit of hindsight - the commentators would say, "he should have done better".

astead, the prosecution is relying on evidence linking members of the alleged "corrupt scheme" just belore and received by the defencharges of conspiracy to try to

fix games.
The prosecution claims that September 1994. The prosecution claims that in fact. Mr Calvert Smith there were two separate but

of the Indonesian betting syndicate receiving more than £500,000 over four years in payments frum the Far East. and Fashanu as the "middle man". Both were said to be in regular telephone contact with the Far East. Segers and Grobbelaar - said not to have known of each other's involvement - were two goalkeepers, the position on a football team most likely to be able to influence the result of a game, say

the prosecution. There was also, it is said, a distinct pattern tu events on

relegation game against Ever-ton in May 1994, which the Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal Merseysiders needed to win to mossible to look at a goal other with Lim. Fashanu and involved and also Indonesia -Segers. Lim is described as the tu people named Loe Bon Swe London-based representative and Johannes Josef, whose of the Indonesian betting synfor channelling funds to Britain. Lim would often speak to Fashanu as well, and then immediately after the game Lim would ring Indonesia again, sometimes on his mobile phone if he was attending the march. Further contact with the players came later.

On one occasion Grobbelaar told Mr Vincent that Lim - whom he called "the Short Man", or "Buhka" - would be 'mad as a snake" after a particular result. But when the goalkeeper's team, Southamp-ton, "steamrolled" Coventry 3matchdays. In the mornings, ton, "steamrolled" Coventry 3-Lim. a 31-year-old bespectacied 1 in a powerful performance

after the Midlanders had taken the lead, Lim, who was at the game, supposedly told him: Tonight you had no chance. No chance, Mr Grobbelaar." The clusters of telephone

calls between the defendants, gleaned from laboriously sifting show that the members of the scheme would often discuss in advance which games to "chuck". The ability of mobile telephone networks to tell in which cell site area a phone is being used has been drawn on by the prosecution to "prove" where certain defendants were as certain times. These include an alleged occasion the night hefore a Liverpool/Norwich City game when Grobbelaar asked his Liverpool room-mate to cover for him as he left the team hotel to meet Lim at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London, to pick up £500 expenses.

his lengthy matching of hundreds of telephone calls with the supposed contributed to the length and technicality of the prosecution

The pace may change when the prosecution witness, Mr Vincent, gives evidence on Monday. It was his decision to approach The Sun newspaper for financial gain with allega-tions about Grohbelaar and match-fixing which triggered a police investigation.

The exchanges between him and Grobbelaar, taped by The Sun in what has been described as a "sting" operation, and read to the jury, have provided details of supposedly "thrown" matches and Grobbelaar's alleged payments, including one of £40,000 handed over b Fashanu after Liverpool lost 3-

0 to Newcastle.
The fellow Zimhabweans were involved in a safari business, and were close friends, hut when they fell out in a row over money Mr Vincent approached the newspaper, which printed what Mr Calvert Smith described as a "sensational" story. Once the sting had become public, Hampshire police began a lengthy investigation. Just how much of it was true and how much of it was true and can be proven will be known when the jury brings in its ver-

dict some time in March. Meanwhile, Mr Lim and the three footballers will continue their lengthy stay in the dock. So far they have shown little emotion, preferring to sit bolt upright and poker-faced in slick, very soccer-player suits.

Grohhelaar, though, did react when the jury was shown his unsuccessful effort to stop the Dion Dublin goal against Coventry City. A nervous, possibly embarrassed smile came to his lips as the video showed the ball plopping gently into the

But, as Mr Calvert Smith said early in the trial, any goalkeeper can make a mistake.



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jo brand's week

As a student I was always in debt, and attempting to uggle resources available with all my expenses was an almost impossible task sometimes. Banks had to be constantly lied to, cajuled and ignored when things got tight. From what I remember of

my bank and the banks of friends, although they got pretty shirty and refused increased overdrafts from time to time, they certainly did not ever threaten to send the hailiffs in. And I never came across a student who attempted suicide because of threats from the bank. What an appalling and pointless waste of a life for a Manchester student to kill himself over £778. It seems that there has been a real change in attitude to students these days, led, of course, by our caring, sharing

Government. Being a student used to be a carefree time, during which many 18- to 20-year-olds got their last taste of gloriously irresponsible freedom before knuckling under to a grownup life of drudgery and sobriety. The fact that it was not available to all was the biggest problem. Now student life is just another period of the relentless struggle that so many people have to go

The Advertising Standards Authority has ruled that a poster used to advertise Harvey Nichols, the nobs' shop, which portrayed a supermodel wearing a dog lead, is not sexist.

I don't know how many peopic have seen the brilliant heavy metal spoof This is Spinal Tap, hat I remember a scene in which the band's new album, Smiff the Glove, and its cover were being discussed. The cover portrayed a naked woman with a dog lead on and I remember people in the cinema laughing npreariously, because it was so obviously offensive and ridiculous and so quintessentially "heavy metal".

It seems those days are gone. The more we move backwards in time and women increasingly allow themselves to be portrayed as passive, controlled things, like wot they did in the old days, the more blokes are going to crap on us, like wot they did in the old days. What's next on Harvey Nick's advertising agenda - spot of wife beating, perhaps?

Harvey Nicks is, of course. the Queen of Hearts' favourite shopping experience, but she has had to forgo flashing the gold card

for a bit because she is uff round the world being humanitarian and not political. I don't really know if she knows what she's being. to be honest, except that she thinks we might all like her a bit more for it.

No one is denying the appalling damage that landmines do to human limbs, or the cynical policy the Tories have towards the existence of the things, but surely Diana should stop playing at global Lady Bountiful and sort herself out. She is currently contributing to the stock of rich, posh people opening their mouths on relatively safe political issues for effect. while continuing to lead a deb's life in various clubs and

at polo matches. I don't give a toss about which royal cares more about which underprivileged issue. about the plight of the world's put-upon, they'd start by hringing the monarchy down faster than you could say. Pass the heluga, darling".

Meanwhile, old Fergers is desperately trying to pay off her rather large dehts hy taking a million green ones off Weight Watchers. (Just think how many bars of choc

that would get you.)
Weight Watchers tends to use humiliation as a tool to control the ravenous appetites of its members by weighing them in front of their peers and having a go at them. The Duchess of York will be well acquainted with the concept of humiliation, having run the gauntlet of tabloid savagery for some years. Still, no transparent altempt for her If they really gave a monkey's at winning the hearts and

minds of the people, she just wants the dosh.

Country Life is not a magazine I huy and therefore I associate it only with agonising trips to have my molars mucked about with. But that's not the only reason I don't like it. I don't like it because it represents a smug, privileged group of hereditary morons who should have been chased off their land years ago. It consists mainly of articles about huntin' and fishin', pictures of rich girls destined to be hitched to personality-free, chinless wonders, and adverts for jackets that cost more than your average person spends on a boliday. Its anachronistic presence in our midst is a sharp reminder of all the hoorays who are still tearing apart the fox population for a laugh. This sad publication has seen fit to drag itself into the 20th century by including some women without any clothes on between its shiny covers. The emphasis is on

'tasteful", you understand. No one with a comprehensive education will get a look in here. One would have hoped that Country Life might have hauled itself up to date by just not existing any more. I'll just have to stop

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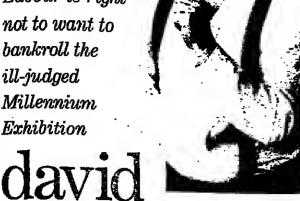
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*Labour is right not to want to bankroll the after the vacciances had a the lead. Lim. who was a game, supposedly told be. Tomight you had no day to chance. Mr Grobbeh. ill-judged Millennium



The clusters of leighted is between the delegated from laborated we telephone records, by show that the members scheme would often dead advance—which—came

f ever you feel inclined to bend to the "wouldn't L it be better if a committee of wise men and women ran the country?" argument (a variant of which is to praise assess his Literpool none the House of Lords. precisely because it is not democratically elected), stop quickly, and say these two words: "Millennium Exhibition".

As I write, a huge attempt is underway to save the project, which is to be based on contaminated land of a former gas works in the London borough of Greenwich.

The problem, we are told, is that the materials from which the Greenwich Millennium dome is to be made must be ordered right now - this minute - if they are to arrive in time. To do that the project must be sure of that section of its funding that is pledged by the private sector. And the private companies will not stump up unless the Government guarantees extra Lottery support, if required, to minimise possible losses.

But - and here's the twist s the Labour government hose support they are demanding, and Labour is not keen on giving that pledge.

On Thursday the Evening Standard - whose columnist Simon Jenkins is a leading member of the Millennium Commission – laid into Labour's refusal to commit

Labour had "almost certainly doomed the whole enterprise. The shadow Heritage Secretary had 'dithered, dallied and holidayed" while a project "involving hundreds of millions of pounds and thousands of jobs has ... awaited a clear judgement from him". With the certainty of inside knowledge it stated that at "every stage Lahour has heen told as much as government ministers about the Greenwich project". Fmally, it asserted such prevarication was "a grim omen for the future".

There is something surreal certainly true that Dr Cunningham's enthusiasm for his brief (following a spell as shadow Foreign Secretary) is not substantial, and his work rate is unprodigious, can it really be true that a huge project, planned by a committee (appointed not long after the last election four-and-a-half years ago), should depend on commitments from an npposition that has not been in power in this country

for nearly two decades? There is a dispute about who told whom what and when. Dr Cunningham argues that the urgent need for Labour in opposition to write a blank cheque (payable by Labour in government) for up to £500m in Lottery money over two years is a recent phenomenon. And it must be any reasonable person's suspicion that had the private sector poured money into the venture at the rate originally

been so assiduously sought. But the private sector has not stumped up. The chairman of the project resigned last month. And the public have not been excited by the scheme.

agreement would not have

anticipated, Dr Jack's

The idea of an immense exhibition on the theme of time has failed to set the nation alight - and the prospect of the site's longterm use as yet another sports or leisure centre is depressing, rather than uplifting. The hudget for the Exhibition, already high, went higher, and then was slashed as the amhitious nature of the plan was scaled down. Even. so there is a massive contingency element, which if entirely spent, would absorb £200m alonc.

From the day when Tony and Gordon become nextdoor neighbours in Downing Street, all kinds of folks will be looking for lots of cash, and will be turned away.

To find the money for the projects that the new government will regard as essential, will mean scouring hudgets, fiddling with invisible allowances and tax rates and - not least applying Lottery monies to things like homework centres (it is instructive that most of the criticism of Labour's homework plans focused on those children who had nowhere to study). Putting up VAT and income tax rates will not be an option.

Now ask yourself which you would rather have, a network of homework centres fitting into a plan to transform the education of underachievers? Or a guarantee to an unelected hunch of journalists and quango-ites, that their overruns on an insufficiently popular project will be hankrolled?

So my message to Tony Blair is this. Do not be bullied by the likes of the Standard and the members of the Heritariat. The electorate will have put you in power to achieve much more important things than indulging such people's whims. Say No.

... and some real y reasons to party

Porget the millennium; there are more worthy anniversaries around. For this year sees the hicentenary of the first recorded appearance of the word "centennial", and if that's not worth a party in Greenwich, I don't know what is. Unless it's the centenary of "jock-strap", the tricentenary of "what's-his-name" (first used by Dryden) and the 700th anniversary of such basic concepts as "marriage", "duty". "libel" and "sodomy".

A search through the Oxford English Dictionary on CD-Rom shows 1897 to have been a year of bad emotions. Algophobia (fear of pain) and anhedonia (absence of pleasure) both made their first appearance. Before then, also, no knickered au pair could be reshuffled on

the Davenport. By contrast, 1797 was a year of ideological iconoclasm with the anti-social propagandist phenomenology of the time enabling the first autobiography of a manageress with a taste

, For semolina. The year 1697 brought us the first hailstorm and thundercloud. Not the weather for having a burbecue, sailing one's calamaran or engaging in urination (in its original meaning

of diving). A chap in 1597 could have been rendered frigid, or infertile, by the incompetent removal of his scrotum. It was also the first time anyone became legless (though its connection with alcohol dates back only to 1976).

Talking of which, inebriate hit the language in 1497, which seems to have displeased his spouse. Why else should she excoriate the victim with a rolling-pin? She could even have used the pilliwinks of 1397 a form of thumbscrews

designed for the fingers. Thanks to Robert of Gloucester's Metrical Chronicles, 1297 provided a rich word-harvest. An aunt could prepare dinner for her niece or nephew or accuse a bachelor of causing her pain, the bastard.

And why not bring back some words that have not survived the centuries? While gabfest (1897: a gathering for talk) is not to be encouraged, might we not profit from more amorism (1897: loving sentiment)? Let's reinstate it before we forsloth (1297: to lose through idleness) the chance.

William Hartston

Justice for the military is far from uniform

by Patricia Wynn Davies

ast-track jus-tice was in west Belfast, as Lee Clegg and his sup-porters celebrated the decision by Sir Patrick Mayhew. Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to refer his murder conviction back to the Court of Appeal after a mere six months' consideration. There is no doubt that the

paratrooper, who served two years of his sentence for the killing of a teenage joyrider on a pre-ceasefire September night in 1990, has an arguable case. An inch-thick dossier of detailed hallistic and forensic cyidence sent to Sir Patrick last July suggests that the fourth of four shots said to have been fired from his rifle - ruled as excessive force by the trial judge because any danger from the car that had raced towards his patrol had passed - could have come from the weapon of another soldier.

There seems little doubt either that Clegg, now a lance-corporal and a PT instructor at the parachute training centre in Catterick in North Yorkshire, was the victim of a prosecution which was far from even-handed about the events

Why was it that of the group of soldiers firing a volley of bul-lets out on the Glen Road in the darkness, only 21-year-old Pte Clegg, the youngest in the patrol, was singled out for the murder of 18-year-old Karen Reilly, a passenger in the car? Forensic evidence presented to Sir Patrick indicates not only that the murder hullet was fired by someone else, but also that one of the men in another "hrick" of soldiers further down the road fired the shot which killed 17-year-old Mar-tin Peake, the driver of the stolen Vauxhall Astra, again at a time when the need for selfdefence had passed. That hullet was never found. But there was no "common purpose" prosecution involving the other soldiers, the device frequently used to secure murder convictions in other Northern Ireland cases where the Crown cannot

prove who inflicted a fatality. As one former paratrooper present that night has put it.
"all of us could have been charged with murder". Instead, the seeds had been sown for the unprecedented phenomenon of a miscarriage of justice campaign that had the backing

of the Army's top hrass. By March 1995, Sir Patrick, not a man usually given to



Referring the Clegg case back to the Court of Appeal

has only confirmed to the people of west Belfast that there is 'fast-track' justice for British soldiers

Northern Ireland Life Sentence Review Board, in view of "exceptional mitigating" factors. Thousands of people had rung into mainland news- before the normal date. The

By July, following a recommendation from the board, he was freed on licence. With the time spent on remand, he had served a total of four years. It is the ensuing unrest on the streets of Belfast that stuck in people's minds. Less noticed was the action of Breidge vate Ian Thain, who shot 22making hasty decisions, Gadd, Northern Ireland's

referred the case to the chief prohation officer, whose road manager for the Banaboard in protest at the case being reviewed seven years stantive review of mandatory life sentence prisoners is 10 years, and most serve 14 or 15. For many, the decision was proof of a system of differen-

> tial justice. Clegg was not the first soldier to have secured early release. Eighteen-year-old Priyear-old Thomas Reilly, the

sense of injustice led her to narama pop group, was resign her membership of the paroled after serving 20 months of a life sentence for murder. And now it seems that the two-tier approach could be in

the process of securing legal, as well as political, hacking after a ruling in a Northern Ireland High Court case last month. Two Scots Guards who lost their appeals against convictions for murdering Belfast teenager Peter McBride in 1992 argued that they were being treated less favourably

than Pte Thain or paratrooper

decided in their cases that the question of release should not be referred to the review board until late 1998, still well short of the 10-year mark. The judge upheld a judicial review records. hrought by the soldiers. James Fisher and Mark Wright, and directed the Northern Ireland Sccretary to reconsider his

Clegg because Sir Patrick had

It was learned during the case that officials in the Northem Ireland Office had recommended that Thain should be years and 11 months, including reached the Cabinet table.

time speni awaiting trial. The two Scottish soldiers have spent more than four years in custody.

If soldiers are going to be compared with soldiers, and the rule of law mixed up with politics, there is little evidence of the system being prepared to compare the fate of soldiers with other cases where a miscarriage of justice has been alleged. The decision to refer the Clegg case back to the Court of Appeal has only con-firmed in the minds of the people of west Belfast that there is fast-track justice for British soldiers while others who dispute their convictions make little headway in getring their cases returned to the courts.

They include Billy Gorman. convicted at the age of 14 of murdering a policeman in 1980. He has served his 14 years but, like Clegg, wants the conviction expunged. At his trial, his counsel took the unusual step of putting Gorman back in the witness box after he was found guilty to protest his innocence. Evidence that he was ill-treated in custody and that the police tampered with interview notes were submitted to the Northern Ireland Office. A few days ago, he had a communication from the authorities - to be told there would be no prosecution of the police officers involved.

Another long-standing application is that of Neil Latimer, one of the UDR Four", who was convicted in 1986 of the murder of a Roman Catholic. The most telling case of all, perhaps, is that of the socalled "Casement Three", who were convicted of the murder of two Army corporals who had been dragged from their car near a Belfast funeral in 1988 and heaten up in Casement Park before being driven away and killed by the IRA. No one had any difficulty in hringing a "common purpose" prosecution and securing a conviction here. No one alleged that any of the three were involved in the actual murder, or were present when the soldiers were murdered, or that they were significantly involved in the lead-up to the murder or that they had paramilitary connections or previous criminal

The Committee on the Administration of Justice, the Northern Ireland civil liberties council, has concluded in the firmest terms that they are not guilty of murder. The Northern Ireland Office rejected their plea for their convictions to be reviewed again by the courts. released after serving three But then cases like this never

Don't sell out the Tube Nº34.

A public-private partnership - not privatisation - is the solution to London Underground's problems, says Glenda Jackson

next election, it will be for many reasons: rises in tax, and the lies that accompanied them; weakness on law and order; the rundown of our schools and health services. But in London, a crucial battleground, there is another issue set to deal a heavy blow to the Tories' electoral fortunes: Tube privatisation.

It is important to understand what Tube privatisation is not. It is not, as ministers pretend, an imaginative attempt to introduce new funding into an ageing system. The Conservatives did not stumble into power yesterday, they did so 18 years ago. Were privatisation the answer, London Underground would already be privatised. John Major's rushing where even Thatcher feared to tread indicates desperation, not inspiration.

His desperation is twofold. First, insufficient growth has been generated to sup-port a network used daily by two-and-ahalf million Londoners, most of whom vote. Second, there is Major's need to placate those in his party clamouring for a dose of the old-time privatisation religion. Major is trapped between the rock of a deeply unpopular policy, and the bard place of the radical Tory right.

But the decision to reach for the zero option of outright privatisation reveals more than just the desperation of an increasingly embattled leader. It also reveals how the Conservative policymaking machine has reached the end of the line. To get to grips with London Underground's problems it is important to face some hard facts.

First, they will not be tackled by hurling limitless amounts of money around the network. Resources will be tight whoever is in power. The key is to ensure funding targets those areas of the system where it is most needed, and can be most effective. That is why when in government our priority will be to join with the private sector in channelling investment towards the core of the network, where the collapsing embankments, ageing signalling and

f the Conservative Party loses the crumbling tunnels now present a very real threat to the integrity of the system. Conservative ministers reject this approach and conjure up ever grander visions. But, as ever, their promises are undermined by their record. In 18 years since they were elected, not a single new major infrastructure project has been completed on the network. And it is no coincidence that



Resources will be tight whoever is in power'

the last new project, the Juhilee Line, opened on 1 May, 1979, two days before Thatcher took office.

Second, the Tube still suffers from significant waste and inefficiency. Much of this is the result of ministerial incompetence, as underlined by the Crossrail fiasco, which saw £126m squandered on a project that never left the drawing board. There are also doubts about Labour spokesman on transport.

whether the current methods of financing provide sufficient stability for the Underground to make best use of its available resources. Hence our commitment to a complete review of financing.

Again, ministers reject this option, and in doing so they underline how a fear of change can he so much more costly than

No government can tackle the problems facing the Tube on its own. Real improve-ments can only be made through securing fresh investment from sources other than the already hard-pressed taxpayer and commuter. That is why we are committed to securing a genuine partnership between government and business.

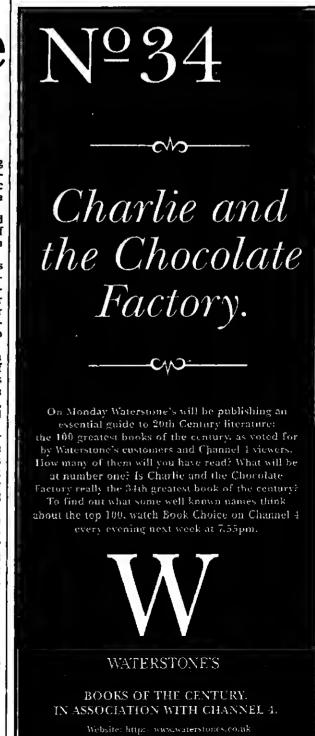
The Conservatives have never been

able to get to grips with the concept of private financing. Partly that is because as a Labour initiative their instinctive reaction is to oppose it. For today's Tory party, raised at the shrine of market forces, and schooled in the evils of "hig government", the idea of employer and employee, or state and husiness, working together is anathema. So great is the Government's opposition to such a partnership that Chancellor Kenneth Clarke recently warned London businesses to "stop rattling the can" for the Underground.

But if the Tories recoil in horror at the concept of cooperation, that is their problem. London husinesses have shown their keenness to seek a solution to London's transport crisis. And we intend to work with them, to start to put London Underground hack on track.

The Evening Standard described John Major's privatisation plans for the Tuhe as the "the longest suicide note in history". That underestimates the desperation with which he will fight to stay in Downing Street. But if Tube privatisation does play a part in John Major's downfall, it may turn out to be the saviour of London's transport system after all.

The author is MP for Hampstead and a



business & city

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Crisis deepens at Morgan Grenfell

Banking Correspondent

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

nior legal official of Deutsche career was thrown into the is sizable, running to at least Bank at the group's Frankfurt

plunged deeper into crisis yesterday after Nicola Horlick, the City's "Superwoman", head office. Mrs Horlick, who has just threatened to take legal action turned 36, earned her title "Suagainst the firm and jumped on perwoman" for her reputation a plane to the bank's head ofof being able to combine a fice in Frankfurt to demand hectic family life - she has five back her £1m-a-year job. children and an investment Two diametrically opposed banker husband - and her deversions of the events of the last manding joh as head of Morgan

week were issued yesterday by Grenfell's £18bn pensions fund the DMG and Horlick camps, as Mrs Horlick confronted a se-

Her hitherto unblemisbed

limelight on Tuesday when £1m. Robert Smith, the new chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, suspended her for alleged breach of contract after suspecting she had been attempting to poach staff to move to a rival fund man-

ement group. "She has claims for unfair and wrongful dismissal," said John Farr, her solictor at Herbert

She denied the accusations by the firm that she had been in talks with another employer and trying to take her current team with her.

"There has been a very large misunderstanding. They should bave asked me, they decided to suspend me on the basis of hearsay." Mrs Horlick said as she arrived in Frankfurt yes-

he had earlier charged into MGAM's London offices in Finsbury Circus, accompanied by photographers, demanding to meet Mr Smith.

She failed to find him or Michael Dobson, chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, the investment bank of which MGAM is a part.

So, at lunchtime, she rang BBC2's Working Lunch pro-

meet the board of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt. "I'm going to go and say this is the case, these are the facts. I think it is unfair, I've huilt you a very suc-

cessful business. *I'm very keen to stick to my team and do the best I can for my clients." Mrs Horlick said. Mr Smith said the remaining 30 fund managers at the firm had written vesterday to the 350 UK clients and confirmed they

Sparks fly at fund management firm as Nicola Horlick goes on publicity offensive to win her job back By then calm and collected, to announce her intentions to all intended to stay with

Her actions prompted anger among many of her colleagues in the leafy surrounds of Finsbury Square in the City, where there has never in living memory heen such a public dispute about a resignation.

"As a result of all this she's lost a lot of friends," said one source who had been speaking with sources inside MGAM. Her departure has added to

With the second fiasco, a senior investment adviser said "If you were sitting in Frankfurt you would be prefty concerned

ung affair and are likely to raise

serious questionmarks in Frank-

furt about the management in London, headed by Mr Dobson.

After the Peter Young affair.

Rolf Breuer - soon to be the

chairman of Deutsche - inves-

tigated the London operation

but left it more or less intact, and

it did not affect the career of Mr

Dobson, a main board member.

'No other course of action but to suspend her'

Jill Treanor

Robert Smith, the newly installed chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, was adamant yesterday that he had evidence that Nicola Horlick had been attempting to poach key staff to move to another firm. He disputed ber version of events point by point.

He said the evidence of poaching was the reason why he susficial internal procedures, which pended her from her £1m-a-year job on Tuesday, even though only the previous Friday he had of-fered her the promotion she so clearly wanted. Mr Smith sawher this observations of that she would attend a discipli-nary hearing which would take place yesterday. the previous Friday he had ofas his obvious successor as soon as she returned from maternity leave in October, and had discussed this with ber on a number of occasions.

The job offer last Friday came after a meeting between Mr Smith and the six top members of her staff that day. At this meeting it emerged that the staff believed she was planning to leave, and wished to take some of them

"They alleged that she was planning to take a team out, and the members did not want to go," said Mr Smith. However, it was support for the management not this alleged attempt to per-team in dealing with this matter. suade staff to follow her that led an offer of promotion to keep her and the team

Mr Smith offered her a joh as his number two - managing director of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management - and they shook relationships and staff morale afhands. The offer was not in writing but, said Mr Smith yes- year. Morgan Grenfell insiders terday, "My word is my bond."

He went back to his Scottish

home that weekend believing he had defused the situation. But, he took a phone call which aroused his suspicions that she was still approaching senior managers about moving en masse to a rival firm.

Mr Smith refuses to say who

clearly from someone he knew and trusted.

mation which suggested she had a hidden agenda," Mr Smith said. He spent the weekend following up the leads, and pursued his enquiries on Monday. By Tuesday he knew he had no other course of action than to suspend her.

give the person under suspension the chance to reply. They agreed

"I was quite convinced there was a case to answer," he said.
But that hearing did not took
place. Mrs Horlick instead visted Mr Smith on Wednesday to talk over the events and on Thursday her resignation was faxed by her lawyer to Morgan Grenfell's lawyer.

In a memo to his 700 strong staff yesterday he said he stood by his actions. "We are com-pletely satisfied that we have acted properly throughout. MGAM is a great business. I have received whole hearted

"We are looking forward to the husiness in 1997 and beyond. No one individual is bigger than

the institution."

Mrs Horlick had been playing key role in rehuilding client admit she was furious about Michael Dobdon's handling of the Keith Percy affair but are reluctant to say that they agreed

Asked whether MGAM in general or the pension fund business would be hurt, Mr Smith said: "It's not very pretty reading, of course ... hut I don't made the phone call but it was think it will do lasting damage."



Opposing forces (clockwise from above): Nicola Horlick; Michael Dobson, chief executive of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell; Robert Smith, chief executive of MGAM; and Rolf Breuer, soon to be the chairman of Deutsche

Early morning - Holds impromptu press conference outside her

Vensington home. Dashes off to the City in her bright red Alfa-Romeo for showdown with Robert Smith, chief ecutive of Morgan Grenfell.

All in a busy day: 'Superwoman' flies from London to Frankfurt entourage in tow. Sweeps past secu-rity guard, and stroils into her old office.

> 10.35am - Robert Smith was not in the office, and she is ejected from Morgan's building by Martyn Drain, head

Noon - Gives two interviews to BBC TV.

Lunchtime - Files from Heathrow to Frankfurt to confront Deutsche Morgan

Early afternoon - Makes two phone calls on arrival, Iold Oeutsche ement will not meet her, and

'It's a disgrace and untrue' friends maintain

been done against me", accusing her former employer, Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, of orchestrating a press campaign against her which had distorted

and misreported events. According to friends, Mrs Horlick had done her utmost to hold her team together in the face of threats from a group of five key fund managers. She acted as their go-between with MGAM's chief executive. Robert Smith.

Then the company turns round and accuses her of heing the ring leader," the friend said. "It's a disgrace and completely untrue. She's a very determined woman, a sort of young Margaret Thatcher, and she's going to get this thing corrected come hell or high water."

Sources sympathetic to Mrs Horlick's position say she was profoundly shocked by the way in which Keith Percy, the man who had recruited her, was fired with four colleagues in the wake of the Peter Young débacle.

She believed Mr Percy had been made a scapegoat and had fallen victim to a press campaign to get rid of him. She bad been horrified by the way in which his not believe a claim by Michael Dobson, head of Deutsche Moran Grenfell in London, that the leak had not come in an authorised fashion from the company's public relations firm, Brunswick.

But she fought hard to keep clients, assuring them that she had no intention of leaving. Morale had none the less gone into a rapid downward spiral. It was also a difficult time for Mrs Horlick on the domestic front. Her daughter's leukaemia had relapsed and the child was

undergoing chemotherapy. During this period Mrs Hor-

Nicola Horlick vowed last night to "undo the great wrong that has belp her bold the husiness together. However, once in the top job, Mr Smith abandoned Mr Percy's open plan desk structure and had his own office installed "with frosted glass"

For many this proved the fi-nal straw. Three weeks before Christmas Mrs Horlick went to Mr Smith to tell him that some younger members of the team were getting "fractious".

Two weeks before Christmas a senior member of that team came to Mrs Horlick and said that he had received an ultimatum from five colleagues that if she were not given a position of authority to sort out the mess they would all leave. Mrs Horlick discussed the threat with her business committee which she expressed her own

loyalty to the company.

It was agreed that the business committee would agree a title for Mrs Horlick which would give her the authority to

pull the organisation together. On the afternoon of 10 January Robert Smith offered her the title of managing director. There was a long discussion about future plans for the business. Mrs Horlick was also told what her bonus for 1996 would be. Even-She met the rebels again long into the night, and finally succeeded

This Monday, rumours began to circulate about mass defections from MGAM. Mrs Horgood friend" about the rumours, which included her, hut

The next day she was summoned to Mr Smith's office where she was suspended for alleged hreach of contract.

She was escorted to her oflick had gone to Robert Smith. huilding and ordered not to talk subsequently appointed chief to staff or journalists.

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Impatient LVMH chief cuts stake in Guinness

Tom Steven City Editor

LVMH cut its 21 per cent stake day, raising £559m to help pay for its purchase of a controlling stake in DFS, the world's largest duty-free shopping group. The placing of the stake by Goldman Sachs with about 100 institutions reflected, analysts said, the growing impatience of LVMH chief Bernard Arnault with Guinness's poor share price performance in recent years.

Guinness used the placing as an opportunity to buy in 2.3 per cent of its own shares at a discount to yesterday's opening price of 43op. It paid 414p

Statistics as of 17 January

Sachs offered it and is thought to have wanted to buy in more, having already bought in 5 per cent of its shares last March for

The sale is understood to have been driven by a number of factors, including LVMH's rumoured interest in buying the whole of DFS. It currently owns 58.75 per cent. LVMIH is also thought to have been unimpressed by Guinness's trading statement earlier this week, in which the beer and spirits group indicated continuing volume and pricing pressures in its United Distillers spirits arm.

LVMH said it planned to retain its remaining 14 per cent stake in Guinness, removing a potential overhang of shares

that had acted as a drag on Guinness's share price. According to the terms of a crossshareholding arrangement between the two, LVMH is now prohibited from increasing

its stake above 15 per cent. LVMH took a shareholding in Guinness in 1988 in the wake of the illegal share support debacle during the then brewing company's hid for United Distillers. Initially both companies held 12 per cent of each other's shares but the holdings increased to 24 per cent each by 1990. In January 1994, a restruc-

turing of the agreement was ef-fected to quell City concerns about Guinness baving a large bolding in what had become a close to the company suggestmedia and luxury goods group. | ed Parsons could bolster

Siemens does U-turn with offer for Parsons

Chris Godsmark

Siemens, the German electrical engineering group, bas made an offer to huy Parsons, Rolls-Royce's historic Tyneside steam save 1,000 jobs at the site.

The surprise news came just a month after Siemens top management in Germany had apparently ruled out interest in Parsons, describing the company as "covered in red ink" in an industry burdened by huge

overcapacity.

The renewed interest follows the announcement by Siemens' British management last week that it wanted to refocus its strategy from manufacturing to services. A source

Siemens' power station service ing and contracting operations. Jurgen Gehrels, Siemens chief executive in the UK, said: We are always looking at business opportunities, especially those where we can strengthen the position of our individual husiness and areas where we could improve the service we provide to our customers. I don't know yet whether Parsons

is such a business opportunity

but we are looking at it." The news came as Rolls-Royce announced the loss of 333 jobs at Parsons from Monday. Barney McGill. representing the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engi-neering Unions, said he would negotiate with management in an attempt to head off further redundancies.

Airbus signs partners to launch super jumbo

Airbus Industrie, the European aircraft manufacturer, resterday moved a step closer o launching its planned 650seat super jumbo by signing up Dutch and Belgian risk-sharing partners on the project. The four-nation consurtium

aims to find risk-sharing partners for 40 per cent of the aircraft, codenamed the A3XX. which is expected to cost at least \$8bn to develop and should en-ter service in 2003. The agreements signed ves-

erday are with Belairbus of Belgium and Fokker Aviation of the Netherlands, which was bought from the collapsed parunt company by the Stork group

get business worth about \$2bn on the A3XX programme.

Alenia of Italy is already a

risk-sharing pariner on the A3XX and other backers are being sought in Korea and elsewhere in the Pacific Rim. Earlier this week the four Airbus partners - British Aero-

space, Aerospatiale of France, Daimler-Benz of Germany and Casa of Spain - signed a hinding memorandum of understanding to convert the consortium into a limited company in 1999. The partners have made the

A3XX programme conditional on the restructuring of Airbus into a fully commercial company. Airbus expects to get au-

lust July. The two partners will thorisation to offer the A3XX to customers towards the end of next year with the formal goahead at the end of 1999.

Boeing of the US plans to launch its own super jumbo, the 747-600, at a cost of \$5hn-\$7bn but there are doubts whether the market will sustain two ria val aircraft of that size.

The A3XX would initially be a double-decker aircraft with a range of 8,500 miles, seating 555 passengers in three classes. But stretched version is also planned, seating 656 passengers in three-class and 990 in singleclass configuration. Boeing's stretched jumbo

will seat 550 passengers in three classes, compared with a capacity of just over 400 in the 747.

Kingfisher to axe 1,200 Norweb jobs

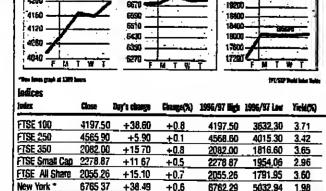
Kingfisher yesterday announced foreshadowed at the time of the 1.200 job losses at the Norweb electrical retail chain it acquired in November in a move that will see 113 stores close, writes Nigel Cape. The redundancy figare is half the number of staff employed at the Norweb chain which Kingfisher is integrating with its Comet format.

Some 28 Norweh stores will stores will also close in March. Following the integration, the number of Come) branches will rise from 225 to 250. Commenting on the job losses, which were

£29m deal, Comet's chief executive Eddie Styring said: "When job losses are unavoidable, we will work to minimise the effect through re-training, joh sharing

and joh search programmes. Seperately, W.H.Smith is clos-ing its 29 Playhouse video retailing stores with the loss of up to chise as well as 26 Comel outlets.
All of the 57 Norweh high street

all months until their leases are
all months until their leases are sold. Peter Bamford, managing director of W H Smith retail, said the decision had been taken as a result of the group's policy to



STOCK MARKETS

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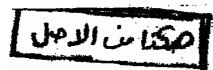
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JEREMY WARNER

'Most management is filled with messy compromise but that an organisation can be held to ransom by any group of employees, and do things it doesn't necessarily want to do, is completely

ridiculous'

Superwoman destroys the City's star system

Question: What's the similarity hetween Nicola Horlick and Chris Evans? An- rampant disloyalty.

[City that goes well beyond that of 20 Finsbury Circus (MGAM's City offices).] swer: They both make more than a million a year, they've both quit their jobs this week after a mighty row with their employers, they've both got above themselves and they were both out of controt - quite bow much depends on who you helieve. That's more or less where the comparison ends, for there isn't much of a likeness in the hair colour. There might he one other thing that unites

Personnel cruptions of this type tend to take place only in organisations which are on the ropes, in crisis or going through a protracted period of unmanaged ebange. They are rare, though not unheard of, in orderly. professionally managed companies with an established market position. In both these cases - Mr Evans at the BBC and Mrs Horlick at Morgan Grenfell Asset Management - it is a moot point as to who was most out of control, the employee or the employer.

Hemmed in on all sides by commercial TV and radio, the BBC isn't wholly confident of what it's trying to do any longer and as a consequence it displays all the usual character-istics - drift and clutching at straws. The Peter Young fiaseo has produced a different sort of crisis at MGAM, where the story is one of client defections, hig losses and plunging morale. Both organisations have | The fact that MGAM was apparently will- understan nonetheless become a breeding ground for ling to pay it is evidence of a sickness in the lin all this.

Whether it was Mrs Horlick or, as she would have us helieve, an unrelated group of disaffected rebels who were threatening to resign, the point to be derived from it all is much the same - when employees start holding a gun to an organisation's head, and find, moreover, that their hravado actually has the sought-after effect, then there has got to be something seriously wrong with the organisation

Whatever the events that led up to her suspension, Mrs Horliek is perhaps the most striking evidence of this. Very few people. even in the City, earn £1m a year. Hardly any fund managers who do not actually own or are partners in their own husinesses do. The notable exception is Tony Dye at PDFM, who once made that sort of money though he surely doesn't any longer. And Carol Galley at Mercury Asset Management comes close. The others can probably be counted on the fingers of one hand.

So what on earth is Mrs Horlick, who was no more than number four in the pecking order, doing earning this astonishing amount? By all accounts Mrs Horlick is an exceptionally talented and elever young woman, but can she actually he worth that to any organisation? Somehow I doubt it.

It's about the individual becoming greater than the organisation, the idea of the star employee without whom everything would collapse. That individuals should think and believe this is nothing new or surprising. But that their organisations should come to accept it too is a quite hizarre and extraordinary thing, a failure in management of the oldest and most hasic variety. But then we don't need any reminders about management failure at Morgan Grenfell Asset

Management, do we?
Mrs Horlick was a fund manager, no more, no less, and her success, in so far as it could be measured, was huilt on the good name and systems of her organisation. Even on her own version of events, what happened is a pretty damning indictment of the modern City. Most management is filled with messy compromise but that an organisation can be held to ransom by any group of employees, and do things it doesn't necessarily want to do, is completely ridiculous. What Mrs Horlick claims happened, to precis it a hit, is this. A group of rebels came to her and said that unless she got a position which would give her the authority to pull things back together again in the com-pany, they would all leave. Mrs Horlick, you understand, was an entirely innocent pawn

Robert Smith, with the message that if he didn't give her a decent job, then they would leave. What Mr Smith should have done was called their bluff, bul weakened as MGAM was, it appeared to him that the rebels had the upper hand and he agreed. What hap-pened after that will probably have to be left to the courts to decide. Why the sudden change of heart? Was it, as he claims, a subsequent telephone call in which he was told that Mrs Horlick bad all along been planning to defect with the best of her team? Or is it, as Mrs Horlick claims, a question of

being treated "despicably"? Either way the impression is of an organisation in a quite spectacular state of shambles. Deliberate encouragement of the star employee system, what is more, seems to be the ultimate cause. The Nicola Horlick affair hardly bears comparison with the dreadful scandal that preceded it. But is it any surprise that an organisation which allows its employees to run amok in the manner of Peter Young should also suffer a tragicomic personnel crisis of this sort? And are star fund managers really what clients want these days? I've got my doubts about that too. It often helps on the retail side of the business to attach the name of a top performing fund management group to a prod-uct but there is growing disillusionment in the institutional market.

A fund manager who outperforms 4 per cent one year, achieving star status, isn't ulti-mately much good if he gives it all back the next. What the hig pension funds increasingly demand is consistency and reliability. For that you need well-paid professionals. operating within strict investment guidelines and rules, but you don't necessarily need the likes of Mrs Horlick and her £1m pay

packet. That style of fund management will almost certainly persist, but in future it will probably belong more to the owner proprietor boutiques, to the investment gurus and the high-risk hedge funds. Young as she is. Mrs Horlick may in time come to be seen as a bit of an investment management dinosaur. Her demise could prove a watershed, unamhiguously marking the final triumph of a reliable hut boring computerdriven, number-crunching style of fund

As for MGAM, who knows what the damage might be! It is hard to know what the company's German masters, Deutsche Bank, made of Mrs Horlick's extraordinary flight to Frankfurt last night, complete with a whole entourage of reporters and photographers. But their belief in the City must be more than a little shaken. They must also be wondering what on earth it was they bought when they paid all that money for Morgan Grenfell seven years ago.

Wallace gets top job at C&W's cable arm

Chris Godsmark Business Correspondent

Cable & Wireless yesterday filled the management gap at the top of its £5bn cable deal by ppointing a director from Granada as chief executive of Cable & Wireless Communications, the new organisation formed out of the merger of its Mercury subsidiary with three cable operators.

Graham Wallace, 48, is leaving his £320,000-a-year job as chief executive of Granada's restaurants and services division to take up the post, starting on I Fehruary. He will be paid a basic salary of £375,000 a year, with long and short-term bonuses and share or discussed with Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive.

Announcing the appointment, C&W again denied that the timetable for the merger, which involves Bell Cablemedia, the UK operations of Videotron and Nynex CableComms, bad slipped. Mr Wallace said: "I've observed fairly closely from where I've been sitting and it's dead on track. This is not an issue. It's still as we said last October. It's still set for the spring."

Asked whether there bad been some internal unhappiness at the link-up, he said: "There will always be some internal unhappiness around."

Mr Wallace joined Granada in 1986, rising to finance director three years later. By

on the horizon.

considerably.

furnishings.

is the prospect of rising interest rates

which could dampen the celebrations

Sectors that should reap the most

handsome rewards from 1997's

windfall gains are likely to be the same

ones which came lop of the pile last

year. DIY retailers, electricals and

These will be boosted not just by

consumers' propensity to huy hig

ticket items after their building society

windfalls but also the improvements

On that basis Dixons looks good

in the housing market.

1990 be was running the television rental husiness, taking over to manage the largest of Granada's operations, the restaurants arm, in 1995.

One of Mr Wallace's first tasks will be to sort out snags involved with the complex joh of merging the four organisations. Insiders in the cable companies have complained of a damaging cultural gulf, with the telephony-based Cable & Wireless often labelied as hureaucratic.

A senior cable source said vesterday: "Although be's not strong on the telecoms side thal's a good sign for the industry. It sends the signal that it is not a typical telephonyhased operation. He's also British and that's fantastic

The appointment raises questions over the long-term role of Peler Howell-Davies, Mercury's chief executive. Last night Mr Howell-Davies confirmed he had been on the short-list for the C&W Communications job hut welcomed Mr Wallace's appointment: "I'm personally disappointed at not getting the top job. I was a candidate and I'll continue to run Mercury and move the husiness forward."

The steering group overseeing the merger, which includes Mr Howell-Davies, Dan Summers, chairman of Bell Cahlemedia, and John Killian, bead of Nynex CahleComms, will meet on Monday to assess



Top guns: Graham Wallace (left) and Dick Brown announce the appointment Photograph: Jnhn Voos

the aim of finalising the list by the end of the month. One hitch is that Stephen Pettit, the C&W director in overall charge of the steering group, is in hospital after a car crash last week.

Mr Wallace's move is the progress. The next move is to second top-level departure enport, who runs Granada's speed up the search for the rest from Granada in a month. In roadside restaurant business. I of those bought at the peak of

of the top executive team, with December Duncan Lewis quit as head of the group's media division after a row with chief executive Charles Allen. However Mr Wallace played down any suggestion that similar disagreements had led to his move. He is succeeded by Don Dav-

PSBR 'on course to hit target'

Diane Coyle

The Government insisted yesterday that its borrowing plans were corcourse to meet the Budget target despite a bigger-thanexpected gap between spending and revenues last month, and the embarrassing admission that the Treasury had miscalculated by £400m the amount Budget increases in air passenger duty and insurance premium tax would raise next year.

shrugged off the disappointing £1.1bn rather than £1.2hn. figures. Shares in London set another record, passing the 4,200 barrier, and the pound jumped more than two pfennigs to its highest level since Black

The Treasury said the revision to the tax estimates applied only

to 1997/98, and made no difference to the medium-term policy. Although it would not spell out the explanation, analysts said the timing suggested officials and calculated the yield on the increase in air passenger duty from April, when it comes into effect only in November.

The increase from £5 to £10

for European flights and from £10 to £20 for other flights is now expected to hring in only £500m, rather than £800m. while higher insurance premi-The financial markets um tax is expected to yield The £400m shortfall repre-

sents a small fraction of total government revenues of around £260bn a year. But the low-key announcement contrasted with the Chancellor's insistence on clawing back the £1bn higher VAT on domestic light and

was defeated on this measure after the 1994 Budget. The Public Sector Borrowing

Requirement was £2.1hn in December, compared to £0.500 in the same month a year earlier. The figure was higher than expected mainly because of a cluster of government interest payments on 'strippable' gilts. The introduction of gilts whose coupon payments can he "stripped" is giving debt interest payments a strong seasonal pattern. The PSBR, excluding privatisation proceeds, stands at £20.4bn so far this year, well

spending grew 3 per cent in the year to December. Receipts grew faster than predicted. Although VAT re-

down from £23.6bn at the same

stage last year. Government

heat should have raised when he cent down on a year earlier, corporation tax revenues were 30 per cent higher.

Analysts said the PSBR was on track to hit the Budget target of £26.4bn. We believe the Treasury was deliberately cautious in its PSBR forecast for the current financial year," said David Walton at Goldman Sachs. The crucial months for the full year total will be January and March. The former is one of the most important months for corporation tax. And departmental spending could display a tradi-

tional year-end surge. The FTSE 100 index rose just over 10 points to end at 4,207.7. A surge in the US dollar thanks to favourable trade figures helped the pound rise more than two pfennigs to close at DM2.6890, its highest since the ceipts last month were 10 per ERM crisis.

Houses move out of negative equity

The number of homeowners living under the shadow of negative equity dropped to 405,000 by the end of 1996, a drop of more than 750,000 over the year according to Woolwich Building Society, writes Nic Cientti.

The reduction, caused by rising house prices, brings the numbers of people in negative equity to the lowest levels since the first balf of 1990, when the recession hit in earnest.

John Stewart, group chief ex-ecutive at Woolwich, said yesterday: The significant fall over the last year is good news for homeowners and is another sign that we are now experiencing a sustained recovery. Further rises of 5 to 6 percent this year should remove more bousebolds from the negative equity trap."

Despite the rise in house prices, a core of about 250,000 hard-to-sell properties, mainly

Negative equity OK households (090s) excluding Greater London 1992 93 94 95 96

the boom in 1988, plus smaller studio-style flats, are unlikely to escape from the negative equity trap in 1997, Woolwich added.

Separately, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said total output in Britain's construction industry is at its highest level since 1993. The construction workload grew by 2.4 per cent in the final quarter of 1996, the third consecutive guarterly rise.

 A consortium led by British Telecom and including Lockheed Martin, GEC Marconi unit GEC-Marconi Secure Systems and GPT Strategic Communications Systems has won a \$1.55bn (£928m) contract to provide an advanced national fixed telecommunications network for the UK armed forces. The Ministry of Defence awarded the contract to deliver voice, data, local area network (LAN) and other wide-area networking services for the Royal Navy, Air Force and Army for 10 years. The consortium will manage work currently indertaken by staff m some 1...200 mil 600 defence establishments in the UK.

• The US trade deficit did not grow as much as expected in November, rising by only \$400m (£240m) to \$8.4bn. This followed an unexpected improvement in trade the previous month. Separate figures esterday showed a strong 0.8 per cent rise in industrial output in December, and 5.1 per cent in the year to December. The manufacturing component was strong, growing by 1.1 per cent during the month. The capacity utilisation rate, closely monitored by the Federal Reserve, rose to 83.8 per cent, its highest all year. Several industries reported operating at above 90 per cent of capacity. Yesterday's statistics led economists to conclude that the growth rate picked up sharply in the final quarter of last year, almost certainly to an annual rate in excess of 4.5 per cent. The dollar soared in reaction to yesterday's figures, reaching DM1.6124, the highest level since June.

 Losses at the British Bloodstock Agency, which huys, sells. insures and transports borses on behalf of clients, narrowed to £123,000 from £146,000 in the seasonally weak six months to September. Most of the big horse sales, including Keeneland in the US and Tattersalls in the UK, take place in the autumn. The BBA noted increased confidence levels in the bloodstock industry and said both domestic and international sales had shown encouraging growth throughout 1996. Market expectations are for a full-year profit of £255,000 (£153,000).

• BOC Group expects 1997 "to be a year of solid underlying progress", while in 1998 and beyond "we expect an increased rate of growth as our new gases plants come on stream, and healthcare and vacuum return to higher levels of profitability," chief executive Danny Rosenkranz said. He told BOC's annual general meeting that exchange rate movements "make it difficult to predict (1997) profit", describing the continuing rise of sterling against other currencies as "an added challenge".

• Orange is planning to go Dutch by joining a consortium to bid for the third telecoms licence in the Netherlands. Partners include Dutch bank ABN Amro and Germany's Deutsche Telekom.

 Storehouse, the BhS and Mothercare retail group, yesterday reported better-than-expected Christmas trading figures with "same business" sales 9 per cent ahead of last year. Like-for like sales at BhS were 7.5 per cent ahead, but same store sales at Mothercare were 4 per cent below 1995.

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Picking up windfalls on the high street With most retailers baving reported their Christmas tradings statements - THE INVESTMENT COLUMN their Christmas tradings statements -

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Retail outperformance fades away

there were clearly exceptions, it was electrical retailing. It should also yet higher interest rates. generally a good year for retailers with benefit from the March launch of the Dixons even pinpointing the start of new Nintendo machine, which is set the recovery to a specific week in the to become the "must have" computer hardware of the year.
In furniture MFI has already spring. This was when the Tessa money started to flow and tax cuts

performed strongly but could enjoy a further re-rating in 1997. Other stocks from the previous Budget came into As the chart shows, it was around with exposure to the housing market that time that the retail chain store should also henefit. That means sector started to outperform the rest Kingfisher, which owns B&Q as well of the market. The sector continued as Comet. Items such as carpets and its outperformance until last autumn beds should also do well, though when it started to decline. The reason shares in some retailers in this market. then was fears that interest rates had such as Carpetright, are already bottomed out and that increases were expensive.

But as the stock market typically looks around 18 months ahead, in-Investors will now be focusing on the vestors need to be aware of the trends prospects for the sector in 1997 and not just for 1997 hut for 1998 as well. which stocks will prove the pick of the That year is likely to prove much tougher for retailers as the building Most analysts are saying that 1997 society windfalls fade away. And even will prove another good year for retailers thanks to rising consumer if more societies do take the flotation route, the largest players such as spending and the added factor of build-Halifax and Woolwich will have been on-year income, an expansion in likeing society windfalls. Set against this

1996 is gradually closing. Though value as the dominant player in and gone. Add to this the prospect of

All this could mean a switch to more defensive stocks at some stage this year. Top of the list here is Marks & Spencer, the Steady Eddie of UK retailing. A further move into mail

order is expected following its housewares catalogue and this could prove The value of a promising area. Another candidate is Burton where John Hoerner bas overseen a dramatic improvement in fortunes. Though the Debenhams group bas heen the star performer in recent year, the long tail of fashion stores such as Burton, Top Man and

room for improvement. It too has made a concerted move into mail Another sector that could enjoy much better fortunes in 1997 than it did last year is food retailing because and target alike are more than usually of its defensive characteristics. Forecasts point to real growth in year-

FTSE All share white charger. UK Retailers

Dorothy Perkins still bas considerable arcane mysteries of oil company

selective. Simple things first. Clyde would appear to have essentially given up hope of remaining independent. Half emerge. way through the 60-day hid timetable, the dispute has boiled down to price. or not Clyde comes up in the next 10 Either Gulf will convince investors that its 105p tabled offer is full and generous, or it will up its offer, or a third party will ride over the horizon on a valued as UK oil companies always

good things from other supermarket

supermarkets next week with results

from Budgens and Somerfield and

trading statements from Tesco and

Clyde Petroleum

The tempo of the Gulf Canada hid for

Clyde Petroleum increased this week

as both sides engaged in a hrave

valuation. For those of an anorak

have a kind of dour fascination but

it is hard to escape the conclusion that

the facts being marsballed by bidder

for-like sales income and a recovery estimates for that between 70p and 80p, Gulf claims its 105p represents a sizein petrol margins.

Nick Bubb of brokers MeesPicrson

Gulf claims its 105p represents a sizeable premium for control. If Clyde has chosen Somerfield as his share of thinks it is worth so much more, asks the year and analysts are predicting Gulf, wby have its directors sold more than 450,000 shares in the past year at groups. We will learn more from the prices between 63p and 81p? Clyde claims it is not like most small

> more akin to small US oil producers, with reliable, predictable production, and should be valued on the US model which is a multiple of historic casbflows. Getting a US oil consultant to put its name to a suggested range of multiples (5.3 to 6.4 times), Clyde calculates a fair

> UK exploration stocks, long on hope

value but short on real revenues; it is

value, on the basis of 1996's 27.6p cash flow, of between 146p and 177p. Chip in a premium for control, Clyde says, attempt to interest investors in the and we might think about it. By the way, our directors had more shares at the end of 1996 than at the beginning despite tendency, the methodological details the sales. Clyde now has 10 days more before day 39 of the bid timetable, which is the

last date it can furnish new information to shareholders. Gulf then has a further week to come up with a final offer, which will remain open for another two weeks during which a white knight may Key to the outcome will he whether

days with an independent assessment from Energy Resource Consultants of the value of its assets - essentially playing the game according to Gulf's rules. If it can secure a high enough fig-As for the details, Gulf's argu- ure, Gulf will be more or less forced to ments are as follows. Clyde should be up the ante. If it can't, or chooses not to publicise the figure, then Gulf might have been, relative to its underlying have an argument that Clyde's cashflow nel asset value, essentially the net pre- approach is too optimistic. Whichever, sent value of the expected cash flows with the shares at a high of 123p, there from the assets it owns. With analysts' is time to wait and watch.

s partners per jumbo Marks & Spencer and Burton, which report next week, are the notable exceptions - the high street book on

gfisher to axe

market report/shares

Second liners reach new peaks as Footsie passes 4,200 Data Bank **FTSE 100** 4207.7 +10.2 **FTSE 250** 4583.4 +17.5 **FTSE 350** 2087.7

SEAQ VOLUME 1.2bn shares, 54,117 bargains Gilts Index



ing Footsie hroke through the shares from LVMH, placing 4,200 points barrier. In busy them with institutions and trading it overcame a minor Guinness which paid 414p for bout of indigestion around hunch time to close 10.2 higher capital). LVMH, once owning at 4,207.7.

terest rate standstill.

But influences closely related to the stock market 2p above its year's low. were important. One was the smoothness of the hig Guinness sale when Goldman Sachs encountered not the slightest difficulty placing the 135 mil-lion shares the French luxury goods group LVMH decided to unload. Another was the unremarkable expiry of the Jan-

were for once at the forefront of the advance with the FTSE was kness in the drink giant's shares was been in the state of the state of

After much huffing and puff- event Goldman took the 24 per cent of Guinness, is left New Ynrk's continuing with 14.2 per cent and, it is sus-strength helped; so did the in-pected, will sell more stock

Guinness fell 4p to 432p, just There had been uneasy feelings in some quarters about the Footsie expiry. It is not un-known for volatile trading to occur near settlement time as large investment houses struggle to protect their positions. But this time round the expiry attracted little attention.

uary Footsie options.

The possibility of the Guinness placing has for long form. Second and third liners ware for once at the forefront

MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

pected, will sell more stock when it is allowed to do so. Guinness fell 4p to 432p, just

Footsie established a string of record highs. The last FTSE opening shares were riding at new highs.

NatWest Securities expect Supporting shares made a good start to last year. But they tended in drift for much of the Footsie to trade in the 3,800 to 4,200 range in the first half year, moving to 4,600 by the

time after April's high.
The strong opening 1997
performance will bring relief to year-end. The string of festive trading statements continued with many hulls. There is a strong belief the first few weeks of the Storehouse, under pressure tately fullowing negative comyear set the pattern for the rest ments, gaining 17.5p to 275p. of the 12 months. Even so, Blacks Leisure's trading statemany observers are pomting to ment lifted the shares 16.5p to a correction, perhaps even a a 401.5p peak. MeesPierson ragged retreat, hefore the raised its profits forecast from

HSBC James Capel decided it was over sold. The shares rose

8.5p to 342.5p. The P&O shipping group was less fortunate. UBS downgraded its profit estimates from £410m to £375m and moved its stance from huy to hold; the shares sunk 18p to

624p.
The strictures of the industry regulator shunted Railtrack into the sidings, down 15p to 398.5p. Prism Rail again moved ahead on the buzz it had won another franchise; the shares rose 50p tn 580p. Dividend cut fears lowered

Licas Varity 4.5p to 216p and, like Guinness, Allied Domecq and Grand Metropolitan wilted in the face of sterling's strength.

be positive. fell 6p to 35.5p as the market growth slowing. The shares grew tired of waiting for the signalled hid. The shares were flotation in November, 1995. above 60p last month. A warning of up to a flm loss slashed Multimedia 16.5p to vague talk trading last year slashed Multimedia 16.5p to vague talk trading last year 18.5p and a profit warning was a little better than expectfrom Corporate Executive, ed. The group should, it is which came to market in thought, be reaping rewards
November, cut the shares from its links with Ericson, November, cut the shares

1.25p to 2.75p. Ask Central, the restaurant been forecast at £13.6m. chain jumped 25p to 187.5p, a peak. The Kaye family, which has established a number of successful eating nut concepts,

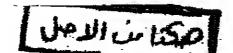
has a major interest. SkyNet, raising £1.7m through a rights issue, returned tn Ofex. The shares closed at 50p with the nil paid rights at

the likes of Barclays de Zoete with Glaxo Wellcome and Wedd, Panmure Gordon and Kleinwort Benson is known to pieces for telephones, has experienced a crossed line since SR Gent, the clothing group, its interim figures showed

> William Nash, a property and wallpaper group, beld at 190p. Stockbroker Beeson Gregory believes ou a sum-ofthe parts valuation Nash shares are worth 296p and, suggests analyst Antony Legge, the market price

its biggest client. Profits have

Guinness placing has for long hovered. The market was convered. The market was convered. The market was conversed by the market was converted. The market was converted by the market was converted. The market was converted by the market was converted. The market was converted by the market was converted by the market was converted. The market was converted by the market price strength. New York despite the weakness of the drink giant's shares, was keen to cash in at least some of its chips. In the supporting index has lagged as gravity and during London by the face of sterling's strength. New York despite the raised its profits forecast from wilted in the face of sterling's strength. Biocompatibles International, the health group, between a word further ahead, up 42.5p with the nil paid rights at population by the market was converted by the market price strength. Biocompatibles International, the health group, between the cort of the drink giant's shares, was keen to cash in at least some of its chips. In the supporting index has lagged as gravity and during London by the nil paid rights at profits forecast from wilted in the face of sterling's strength. Biocompatibles International, the health group, between the cort of the market was converted by the nil paid rights at profits forecast from wilted in the face of sterling's strength. Biocompatibles International, the health group, between the cort of the market price strength. Biocompatibles International the face of sterling's str	
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RY 1997 - THE INDEPEND

صكنات الاعل

Mackie's eyes firmly focused on Athens

couple of weeks before Christmas, Ian Mackie was sunning himself on the halcony of a Sydney apartment, enjoying the view over Manly heach - and reflecting with a measure of disbelief upon his year.

Christmas 1995 had seen the 6ft 11 zin, powerfully built sprinter working in sub-zero temperatures at the Pitreavie track in his home town of Dunfermline. Injury had ruined his summer season, and he knew there was serious work to be done if he was to make any impression upon Olympic year. Twelve months on, having

reached the Olympic semi-final and become the first Briton in 10 years to defeat Linford Christie over 100 metres, the 21-year-old Scot found himself in with the in crowd - a member of Christie's élite winter training group.

"I was thinking, 'here you are'." Mackie recalled. "'Over in Australia training with the best athletes in the world. You've come a long way'.'

He has indeed. And as he looks forward to a season which begins this weekend with the Scottish Championships - his only planned indoor meeting and culminates in the outdoor World Championships in Athens, everything points to

him continuing his progress. Five weeks of intensive training with the likes of Christie, Colin Jackson, John Regis and Darren Braithwaite have done him nothing hut good, "I have never worked with such intensity and in such warm conditions," he said. "The temperature was anywhere between 20 and 34C, depending on the time of day. I have definitely come back fitter."

NEW FACES FOR '97

Mike Rowbottom meets a 21-year-old Scot who last season became the first British sprinter for 10 years to beat Linford Christie over 100 metres

that race'

group, Mackie worked to schedules set by Christie, whom he describes as his childhood hero. He ran 200's, 800's, and 150's. He also improved his weight training. "By the end of the trip I was power cleaning and bench pressing 115 kilos," he said. "Linford and Colin were doing 140, and John 150.

But these guys are a hit more like I did last season would be advanced. Despite his official retire- 'Nothing will ever season it will he more a make up for the son, Christie was not standdisappointment ing by with the

of not being He led his group through able to run in offering advice when re-

"If I was running the bend on a 200, he would notice if, for instance, 1 was dropping my hips, and tell Briton to reach an Olympic was dropping my hips, and tell me to raise them," Mackie said. "You do these things without realising it. Those kind of comments have helped me a

The result may be to estahlish the Scotsman at the top of British sprinting in Christie's absence, although Mackie acknowledges that he has serious rivals, several of whom -

Like everyone else in the Regis, Braithwaite and Darren roup, Mackie worked to Campbell - were with him in Australia.

This season, he aims primarily to improve his person-al best time of 10.17sec for the 100m - clocked while beating Christie in hlustery conditions at Sheffield - and his two-yearold 200m best of 20.91. "To make another big jump

incredible,"

question of making gradual improve-Mackie's coach, John Macdonald, is just the man to oversee

steady pro-gress. Mactrack final when she ran the 400m at the 1980 Moscow Games, suffered a premature retirement through injuries ascribed to an overly punishing training schedule. "I think that was one of the reasons John took up coaching," Mackie said. "He has trained me since I was 14, and he has always been careful to take time over things."

For all that, Mackie - who still lives in Dunfermline with his parents. Bill and Carol - has experienced rapidly changing circumstances. A year ago he regarded himself as unemployed. Now, as a signed-up member of the Nuff Respect management group with grand prix invitations coming his way. he can afford to call himself a full-time athlete, even if the funds are not exactly rolling in for him yet.

The frustration of his experience in Atlanta, when he was forced to scratch from the Olympic 100m semi-final because of a hamstring injury, will remain with him. Nothing will ever compensate for the disappointment of not being able to run in that race," he

But there have been some hig consolations. Mackie finds himself being recognised now, and not just in his home town.

"Especially after I beat Linford, people were coming up to me and saying, well done, how's training? and when syour next competition?' It's nice to be recognised for what you do.

Tlove competing so much. I just love sprinting. And it makes it that much hetter when you are being invited to run at places like Stockholm or Lausanne. There are not many 21-year-olds who have heen round the world for free like I

At one point on his trip down under, Mackie made a point of visiting the site in Sydney where the athletics stadium is being built for the 2000 Olympics, "They were laying the foundations," he said. They were not the only ones



lan Mackie beats Linford Christie in Sheffield last August

Photograph: Mike Egerton/Empics

TODAY

Football Matches not on pools coupons; 3,0 unless Matches Not in pools companis, 3.0 mess stated (subejct to pitch inspections)

FA UMBRO TROPHY First mound: Ashton Utid v Moor Green; Bath City v Stevenage; Blyth Sparians v Grantham; Bromespone v Merthyr Tydfit; Cheltenham v Outside Hamlet; Collym Bay v Lancaster; Dover v Dagenham & Redholdge; Emley v Boston Luti; Enfield v Boreham Wood; Galinsborough Tinnity v Bractord Park Avenue; Catashead v Runcom; Gresley Rovers v Altinicham; Guiseley v Tellord; Hyde v Bedworth; Kettening v Chelmstord; Nicherinster v Macclesfield; Moncombe v Chorley; Northwich v Hednestord; Fushden & Demonds v Famborough; Stough v Dorchester; Southport v Hälesonen Kowt; Spennymoor v Bishop Auckland; St. Albans v Weymouth; St. Loonards Stammart v Newport AFC; Stabridge v Halfact Worsester v Heydridge; Workington v Bamber Bindge; Washing v Goucester; Veord v Hayes;

ing v soucesser; redwi v rayes.
Fa CARLSBERG VASE Fourth round; Artesey v Heme Bay; Barlung v Woodbridge; Bernerton Heath Harfequins v Coher Row & Ronford; Concord Rangers v Whitstable; Histon v Northwood; Mangotsfield v Taunton; Mossley v Cogentice; Reading Town v Barrstead; Southend Marnor v Wisech; Stamford v North Femby; Thatcham v Tiverton.

CIS LEAGUE Premier Division: Aylesbury VHICHINI Bishop's Stortford v Oxford City; Pur-fleet v Cershalton: Staines v Bromley; Sut-ton Utd v Hendon, First Division: Billencay Hampton; Bognor Regs v Aldershot: Can-ey Island v Maidenhead; Chesham v Walvey Island v Maidennead; Chesham v Wat-ton & Hersham; Leyton Pernant v Croydon; Molesey v Worthing Thame v Basingstoke; Tooting & Mitcham v Marlow; Usbridge v Bar-ton; Whyteleafe v Abringion Town. Second Division: Bedford v Wwenhoe; Dorlung v Banstead; Edigware v Harmet Herrystead; Egham v Leotherhead; Leyton v Windsor & Error Tithusy Horsham; Ware v Hinderford; Eton; Tibury v Horsham; Ware v Hungerford; Wernbley v Chalfont St Peter: Withom v Cheshunt, Third Division: Braintree v Lewes; Cheshunt, Third Division: Braintree v Lewes; Clapton v Wingste & Finchley; Epsom & Evel v Homochund; Fladword Heart v Herdfort; Har-low v East, Thurrock; Kingsbury v Southall. Jow V East Introde: Yangsoury V Southal, UNNBOND LEAGUE Premier Divisions Afre-ton v Winsford; Barrow v Accompton Stanley; Frickley v Buston; Leek v Knowstey; Manne v Witton, First Divisione Droykden v Nether-field; Farsley v Curzon Ashton; Gretna v East-wood Town; Leejs RMI v Congleton; Mintey Bay v Great Harwood; Radciffe v Floton; Stocks-bridge Park, Steels v Warmington; Whittley Bay V Leenold Life Workson, a Albertrol Labumum

Rovers.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Premier Division:
Atherstone v Gravesend; Baldock v Burton:
Cambridge Chy Sudbury Town; King's Lynn
v Ashford; Stongboune v Nunearon, Midland
Division: Dudley v Beston; Evesham v Solhull; Hinckey Town v Corby; Paget Rangers
v/S Rugby; Racing Club Warwick v likeston;
Redditch v Sutton Codfield; Rothwell v
Shershed Dynamo; Stoutendey v Stafford.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: Beckerham v Sheppey (2.15); Chathum v Woolwich; Commison v Faversham; Cay Wanderers Slade Green (2.15); Folkesjone Invicta v Rams-

UNLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Dituree Bridges v Ringmer; Wick v Hailsham. John O'Hara Lengue Cup third round: Peace-

HAVEN & RESCONDE V EAST PRESON.

UNLSPORT UNATED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Divisions Boston Town v Newport Pagnet! Cogenhoe v Murries Bischstone; Ford Sports v Bourne; Northampton Spencer v Eynesbury; St Neots v Potton; Spalding v Desborough; Stamford v Kempston; Stewarts & Lloyds Corby v Holbeach; Statiold v Long Buck-by: Wootton v Wellingborough.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Divi-sione Tomnigon v Bindavater; Sarristaple v Bridgort; Bristol Manor Farm v Elmore; Chard v Pautron; Chippenham v Bideford; Westbury Bristiansky NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Pre-

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First Division: Atherron Colhenes v Holker Old Boys; Boode v Trafford; Chadderton v Salford; East-wood Hanley v Darwert; Glossop v Newcas-de Town; Maine Road v Blackpool Rovers;

rers.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: Andover v
Lymington: BA7 v Bournemouth FC;
Chnstchurch v Petersheld; Doverton v Brockenhurst; East Cowes v Cowes Sports; Cosport
v Romse; Ryde v Wimborne; Whitchurch v
Aerostructures.

EWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Divi-Jacoborn Eras Error (Erasus Presser Divi-sione Clacton v Woodbrdge; Des v Halstead; Felbstowe P&T v Wodbech; Great Yarmouth v Buy Young March v Herwich & Parkeston; New-market v Lowestoft; Stowmarket v Gor-leston; Tiptree v Fakerham; Warboys v Sudbury Town.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MID: AND ALLIANCE: inviero, me zaviezos muz nationados actiones e Bialemais y Halesowen Hamers; Bloomen y Rocester, Knypersies y Chasetown; Rushad Olympe y Hackley Athletic; Sandwell y Per-sione; Shifmel y Boldmere SI Michaels; Stratford y Petsal Villa; West Midlands Po-lies y Strangell; Millands II.o (Mithael)

Station Village, Substitution of the Municipal Station of Municipal Station of Stationard Station of Stationard Stationar

Rugby Union

Scotland v Wales (3.0) |at Muraylield, Edinburgh TOUR MATCH: Cambridge University v Ota-

COURTAGE CLIBS' CHAMPIONSHEP National Lengue One: Gloucester v West Hardepool (3.0): Leivester v Bristol (3.0): Crore v Sete (3.0): Mational Lengue Two: Bedford v Rugby (3.0): Covernry v Waterloo (3.0): London Sottish v Nottingham (3.0): Masterloo (3.0): London Sottish v Nottingham (3.0): Makefield (2.15): National Lengue Three: Orfon v Morey (3.0): Fyide v Redruth (2.30): Havant v Lydney (2.30): Lesto v Gley (3.0): London Welsh v Lwerpool St Helené (2.15): Reading v Harogate (2.15): Rosslyn Park v Feeter (2.30): Wharded (2.15): Radional Lengue Four North: Birmingham & Sollhull v Hereford (2.30): Manchester v Nuneston (2.15): 3 Stoke-on-Them v Stouchtige (2.30): Worded video (2.30): Lethield v Preston Grasshoppers (2.30): Manchester v Nuneston (2.15): 3 Stoke-on-Them v Stouchtige (2.30): Wordester v Sheffield (2.30). National Lengue Four South: Askeans v Plymouth (2.30): Barleng v North Watehsm (2.30): Berry Hill v Cheltenham (2.30): Camberley v Newbury (2.15): COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Quarter-finels: COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP Nation

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP Quarter-finels: Comwall y Hertfordshire (2.15) (at Redruth): Cumbna v Yorkshire 12.01 (at Aspatria); Common v Hampshire (2.30) (at Bridgina fert. North Pool Two: Warwickshire Northumberland (2.0) (at Rugby). CLUB MATCHES: Grangemouth v Llandyble [11.0): Kirkcaldy v Aberdeen GSFP (11.0); Madras College FP v Gordonians (11.0); Met-

Rugby League

SRIK CLT CHALLENGE CUP Second round: Clayton v Saddleworth (2.0); Outton v West Bowling (2.0); Ovenden Barrow Island (2.0); Redhill v Wigan Rose BR (2.0); Wigan St Patrick's v Blackbrook (2.30); York Acom v Mayfield (2.0).

Cricket

TOUR MATCH (First day of four): Northern Districts v England (at Trust Bank Park, Hamil-ton, NZ).

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Hernel & Warford Royals v Derby Storm (7.30); Worthing Bears v Thames Valley Tigers (8.0). Junior Men's National, CIP Final: Bra-ton v Manchester (5.30). Junior Women's National Cup final: Insweh v Spettrone (3.15). Cadet Men's National Cup final: Chessingon v Ware (1.01) all at Hisborough Lessure Centre, Shelfield).

ice hockey

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke Broon v Ayr Scot-tish Eagles (6.30); Notimetham Panthers v Newcastle Cobras (T.O); Sheffield Steelars PREMIER LEAGLE: Guidford Flames Kingston Hawks (6.0); Slough Jets v Peter-borough Pirates (6.30); Swindon IceLords v Solihuli Biage (5.30); Telford Tigers v Med-Solinul Blaze (5.301) leford figers v Med-way Bears (7.301).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Blackburn Hawks v Castlereagh Krights (6.0); Durnfres Viringa v Murrayfield Racers (7.30); Fife Ply-ers v Paralley Pirotes (7.0).

Hockey MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Pro

Southeate v Taddington (2.0). First Division Ordara University v Orfard Hawks (11.30); S NOMEN'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE Premier Division (9.0 to 4.15) (at Crystal Palace). First Division (9.0 to 4.15) (at Loughborough University). Second Division 19.0 to 4.15) (at East Grinsland).

Other sports BOXENG: British middleweight title contest: Newfe Brown (Burton, holder) v Willie Quinn (Edinburgh) (a) Greenbank Leisure Centre. NOOKER: Or Martens European League Jal

SWIMMING: British Grand Prix meet (at

TOMORROW

Footbali FA UMERO TROPHY First round: Raunds welling 13.0): Wolungham v Wolung 12.0).

LEAGUE OF WALES: Holywell v Ebbw Vale (3.0). HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RE-LAND Premier Divisions Roberts

LAND Premier Division: Behemians v Sharmook Rovers (3.15); Cork Cry v Deny Cry (12.0); University Coflege Dublin v Home Farm Bierton (3.15). PONTINS LEAGUE CUP Group v Manchester City (1.0).

Rugby Union

can's v Hartequins 13.0).
TENNEMIS 15.56 Cust Third round: Ayr v
Ross High (2.0): Berwick v Gordonians (2.0):
Beggar v Gala (2.0): Costoophine v Howe of
Pite 12.0): Dunder HSFP v Hillhead/Jordanhill (2.0): Dunder HSFP v Hillhead/Jordanhill (2.0): Dunder V Glesgow Academicals
(2.0): Edinburgh Unwersy v East Römde (2.0):
Glesgow Halfyfelwhrede v Heleroburgh (2.0):
Glesgow Southern (2.0): Fladdington v Kilmarrodic (2.0): Hamilton Academicals v
Cartha QP (2.0): Hamilton Academica termine (1.30f; unintigow v Noweck Under (2.0f; Locksebr v Musselburgh (2.0f); Mor-ism Academy FP v West of Scotland (2.0f; Peubliss v Preson Lodge (2.0f; Selvri v Stew-arty (2.0f; St Bussells v Butte (2.0f; Stew-art's Melville FP v Aberdeenshure (2.0f; Strathandrick v Entinhand Academicals (2.0f)

Rugby League

FRIENDLY MATCHES: Featherstone v Haitax i 3.30); Leeds v Sheffeld (3.0); Oldham v Swriton (3.0); Rodddae v Certical Lancashre (3.0); Workington v Safford (3.0); Workington v Barrow (2.0). Basketball

CLASSIC COLA NATIONAL CUP Final: Sheffield Sharks v London Leopards i T.Ol. Ments National Trophy final: Ordor v Py-mouth 12.O. Women's National Cup final: Rhondda v Sneffield jell at Sheffield Avena.

SUPERLEAGUE: Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scot-tish Eagles (6.0); Cardiff Devils v Nottingham Panthers (6.0). PREMIER LEAGUE: Guidford Flames v Sol-null Blaze (6.0); Kingson Haws v Slough Jets 15.451; Peterborough Parates v Medway Bears 15.301; Telford Tigers v Swindom IceLords 15.301.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Castlereast Kingris v Fife Fivers (2.0): Murrayfield Rac-ers v Parsley Pirates (6.30): Whitley Warmors v Blackburn Hawks (6.30).

Hockey MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE Promier Divisio

MEN'S RATIONAL LEAGUE Premier Divisions Cannock v Old Loughtonians 12.30; Canterbury Surbton (10.1 East Grinted) y Reading (2.0); Hawart v Tedington (2.15); Hourslow v Borford Tigers (1.30); Southgate v Guidford (2.0). First Divisions Beeston is Harteston Magness (2.0); Butchirds (Boussier City (2.0); Bournley v Frebrands (2.30); Bromley v Englaston (1.0); Brookends v Doricaster (2.0); City of Portsmouth v Crustys (1.30); Hull v Sheffield (2.0); Indian Gymikhara v Warrington (2.30); Loa v Torgans (1.30); Lenes v Stouport (1.30); Orford Hawks v St Albarts (1.2.30).
WOMEN'S NATIONAL RIDOOR LEAGUE Premier Division (9.0 to 4.15) (at Crystal Palsce). First Division (9.0 to 4.15) (at East Guighborough University). Second Division (9.0 to 4.15) (at East Grinted Sc).

Other sports ATHLETICS: Scottish Indoor Championships jat Kelvin Half, Glasgowi.

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (at

TODAY'S NUMBER

13

The number of times the lgls course record was broken esterday as Austria successfully defended their team title in the World Luge Championship. They collected 145 points on the course which hosted the 1976 Olympic luge events. Germany, with 139, had to be content with silver for the second successive year, while Italy took the bronze on 124.

Laslett returns to **boost Teddington**

Hockey BILL COLWILL

Teddington travel to Southgate this afternoon for their twicepostponed Premier League game with a full-strength squad for the first time this season. Jason Laslett, Great Britain's Olympic captain who has had a hreak since Atlanta, returns to boost the side.

Teddington will include the Australian international Greg Aschendoft. Read in their squad for the first time when they play Havant tomorrow.

Southgate had hoped that Soma Singh would be back for his first league match since the Olympics but he was injured on his return to the pitch in Barcelona earlier this month and is unlikely to be included. The player-coach James Duthie is also unlikely to be in the starting line-up.

As the League resumes a full programme tomorrow after the stretch their four-point lead at be out of action for some time.

LINGFIELD

3.55 Jo Maximus

SIS RACING CHARREL

GOING: Nundard

1.25 Montone 1.55 Lord Sky 2.25 Hever Golf

Charger 2.55 Globetrotter 3.25 Sooty Tern

DRAW ADYANTAGE: Wirtle numbers may be best for 64 Left-land, deep course (Equator) surfaces. It turns is south-cast of town on DEEP, Langued station see

BLINKEREII FIRST TIME: Node. WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Globetroster (2 5%)

won here on Tuesday, Sea Daniely (2.55) wan here on Thursday, LONG-INSTANCE RUNNERS: Globetrotter (2.55), Lawn Latharia (2.55) & Shoataine (4.55) have been son 270 miles

by M Johnston Itom Middlehum, North Vorkshire; Ela Man Bown (1925) & Lord Sky (1935) sem 210 miles by A Budey

from Little Budworth, Cheshire, Rasayel (1.25) & Bargash (3.55) sem 198 miles by P. D. Evans from Leighton, Procys, Silent Symphony (1.56) sem 195 miles by Mrs S Williams from

1.25 STUBBS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f

10412-4 MONTONE (15) (C) J Parks 7 11 T....... Dr M Mannish 7 V 40030-0 SQUEES OCCASION (5) 8 Herus 4 11 1

40161-2 PASAYEL (9) (C) (D) P 0 Fans 7 10 11 Mr W Holangsin (5) 2

C30066 OUISTANED WELCOME (1.06) (B) II Harres S 1.09 .

04560-1 ELA MAIN HOWA (7) (C) A Exilo 6 (10 B ... Miss Y Haynes 8 ... Miss Y Haynes 8 ... Miss A L HARDINGSON (S) 1.

07080-4 CAPTAIN MARMALADE (14) (C) D Thom 8 10 3 ... Miss Diana Joses 1.0 ... Miss Diana Joseph 1... Miss

10 000120 CHEFFARY'S CROWN (199) 1 Hrd 5 9 10 Miss P Jones 6 8
11 3350 ALOSARI (2,107) I Commit 10 9 8 Miss Earns Sarley (5) 4
12 000060 SARIM (39) (C) Hory 11 9 5 Mir I Waters (5) 3

= 12 declared = BETTHU: 3-1 Rasayel, 9-2 Ein Man Howa, 5-1 Montane, 6-1 Squire's Oc-casion, 8-1 Don't Drop Sombs, 10-1 Saram, Socjama, 12-2 others

1.55 HARRINGTON BIRD CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f

054000 R080 MACIC [25] (ID) I Montague Hall 5 9 7. Flynch (3) 4 007-731 RRISTAL MAX (5) (ID) / Outhart 4 B 13 __ D Secency (5) 3 504-36 THE RISSAY FARMER (2) (ID) W G N June 4 B 11 __ D

(1994) 1 (19

SLENT SYMPHONY Les S Wikurs 5 3 2 _____S Drowne T 2500-6 MISS PICHPOCKET (18) (C) MISS Gay Pull-value 4 B 0 _____

- 9 declared - - Prigola Callinore (1) B
BETTIMG: 5-2 krystal Max. 4-1 Lift Boy, 9-2 invocation, 8-1 The Frisky
Farmet, 7-1 Land Sky, 8-1 Norling, Miss Pscipocket, 18-1 others

05040 0 LORD SKY (LO) (B) A Bally 689_____

Miss I Felice 9 V

the top. With no injury problems and leading goalscorer Bobby Crutchley in devastating form indoors and outdoors, they entertain Old Loughtonians, who will be without the suspended Julian Halls.

Reading, who visit second-placed East Grinstead, welcome back Jon Copp, their Olympic coach, and Mark Hoskin, and include in their ranks the New Zealander Karl Sanders and the German Philip

Grinstead will be without Paul du Plessis, who has yet to return from Christmas at home in South Africa, Julian Mills will take his place.

Rob Hill's return to helr struggling Havant has ended after just two games. The former England player has decided that the commitment is too much. Havant had more bad luck on Thursday when their young striker George Cover hroke his collar-bone in a training game against City of winter break. Cannock could Portsmouth. He is expected to also lost at home to them in a

Leopards plan style offensive for Sharks

players fouled out. But they go

into this game seriously under-

The Lcopards' American

centre, Tim Davis, struggled

through seven minutes against

the Towers on Thursday after

returning from a bout of pneu-monia which cost him nearly 30 pounds in weight. "My feeling

him," Mims said. That will put

ty on Robert Youngblood and

we'll have to go without

Basketball

RICHARD TAYLOR Billy Mims, the Leopards' coach, hopes his players' riproaring style will win over the neutrals in the 6,000 crowd in the opening minutes of the Classic Cola National Cup final against the Sharks in Sheffield

Arena tomorrow. The Sharks are on home territory for their third consecutive extra rebounding responsibilifinal after beating London Towers in 1995 and losing to them John Tresvant against the powlast year. Now it is left to the Leopards to try and keep the trophy in the capital.

Mims, whose team were ripped apart 111-79 by London Towers in a 7-Up League Trophy quarter-final first leg on Thursday night, says: "There will be three or four thousand neutrals in the crowd and we can get them on our side by the way we start the game,"

The Leopards have heaten the Sharks at Sheffield Arena in a Budweiser League game, but fiery encounter in which nine

2.25 SNAFFLES MEDIAN, AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 3YO 6F

- 6 deckared -BETTRIO: 5-2 Eliza, 3-1 Karmony in Red, 4-1 Blace Magic, 9-2 Hover Golf Charger, 8-1 Countries Times, 10-1 She's Davide

2.55 MUNNINGS LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 3YO 1m 2f

SETTING: 4-6 Globetrotter, 9-2 Spanlard's Mount, 5-1 Lawn Letharlo, 1

3.25 CECIL ALDIN HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m

0263 64 MANABAR (7) (0) M Priglace 5 8 10 T G McLaughin 8 B

- 17 PETTING: 5-2 Mr Hovermind, T-2 Gold Lance, 6-1 Souty 7em, T-1 Man

abor, Oberons Boy, 8-1 Double March, 10-1 K Chi Sago, 12-1 others

3.55 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER TROPHY HANDICAP (FINAL) (CLASS B) £13,000

125610 GREATEST (29) (CD) Hist Co. Hallowor, 6.9.8

530040 BLIE FLYER (29) (C) (D) P (c) con 4 9 7 _____ J Wenner 9 E

20311-0 TWIN CREEKS [15] [CD] V Some 6.9.3 C Rotter 8 643-031 SEA DANCIG (2) (CD) J Bridge 4.9.0 (4cm ... D Harmon 13

GCO311 ROYAL CARLTON (14) (CD) G1 Moore 5 8 13 5 Withhouth 6

0011-44 APOLLO RED (11) (CDI G1 Moore d 8 9. . . Cardy Mooris)

13 00063-4 BARGASH (14) (b) (BF) FD Exce 5 7 (1) D Wight 12 V

13 Martin and 104 Ton Andrew with Europe 24 to BETTERS 1-12 Royal Carton, 4-1 Sea Danze, 5-1 to Maximus, 13-2 Speed

12 63-3-31 HAWAN STORM (5) (CD) D Myrich Dave (1 / 11

Classic, Step De Degas, 7-1 Fort Knox, 12-1 others

20252-1 STEP ON DEGAS (14) (CO) M Fetherston Guilley 4.8 13

114751- SPEEDY CLASSIC (29) (CD) M HURON DIS 8 10 ().

added 7f

0300.11 GLOSETPOTTER AN ICA M Inhesten 9.1

1 001311- MR NEVERNMO (38) (CD) G L Moone 7 10 0

SPANCARD'S MOURT (E1) M Tomplers 8 13 ... 5 Sandors 3 V LAWN LOTHARBO (72) M Johnston 8 11 . . . Down McKeowe 2

erful Sharks trio of the England international Roger Huggins and the Americans Voise Win-

ters and Todd Cauthorn. Both clubs are challenging the Towers and Chester Jets for the league title. The Sharks coach. Jim Brandon, hopes victory tomorrow will herald a repeat of their 1995 success when Shetfield's Cup final victory was followed by the league championship three months later.

The England international Tony Simms has joined Wor-

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

If people want to write about me at death's door, good luck to them. I hope everybody feels as good as I feel. Brian Clough on the state of his health.

If Henman does not start taking drugs or going out drinking every night, he will go very high. nume Raoux French tennis player, after losing in the second round of the Australian

My brain is scrambled eggs: night now. I'm really struggling to speak normally because I'm burning, especially my feet and in 100F heat in the Australian Open.

We were leading Monaco by eight points shortly before the break and we lost that lead. It is unacceptable, in 1997 you'll have to work and run until you wornit; if it's necessary. Ricardo, Pans St Germain's Brazilian coach. . . He is a hot-terripered gov. He

- W

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Same Contract 10

Section 2 - Control of the Control o

The same

got out to what was an illegal delivery like everybody, else thought, and he was just a little upset. Wasim Akram, the Pakistan cricket captain, on Aamir Schail's one-match suspension for dissett.

epot: £61.10. Ou

thing Bears from Newcastle Eagles.

LOO: 1. SEEKING GOLD IB Storey 11-2. Ardent Lovo 7.2: 3. Call Me Black 6-1.9 ran. 2-1 lavourie Tellicherry luneseted nden. 4.1. U. Barchy, Lesher Tote: £3.30: £1.50.£1.0.£2.30 Disafforecast £4.90, Computer Straight Forecast. £11.49, Inc. £10.00,

£10 60, 1.30: 1. ROSSEL IA Dobbni 5-1, 2. Sol-dat 1-2 fav; 3. Jackson Park 8-1, 12 ran rk, 7: IP Monterth, Roscwelli, Toter £6.10; £1.50, £1.10, £2 90, DF: £2.50, CSF: £7-20 Lang £4.20;

3.00: 1. WEE RIVER U Callaghani 7-4: 2. Regal Rompor 9-2, 3, Lord Doroct 6-4 fev. B ran. 2, 3%, IG Moore, Middlehami, Tote: £3,40; £1,60, £2,00 DF, £7,40, QSF; £8,94.

28.94.
3.30: 1. ALZULU (P Carberry) 4-5 lav. 2.
Revolt 12-1; 3. Mythical Approach 9-2. 19
ran. 7. 1% 0 ProGerad, Metoni. Tote: £1.70;
£1.10. £2.40, £1.60 0F: £9.00. CSF:
£11.32 Inc: £13.90. Place 6: £45.36. Place 5: £25.38.

KEMPTON

1.40: 1. CAPTAIN JACK (D.Walshi 6-4 fav. 2. Blading Mirade 13-2: 3. Cardinal Gayle 7-1. 5 ran. 5, 3. (M Pipe, Wellington) Total £1.60; £1.40, £3.00. Dual Forecast: £4.00. 2.10: 1. SUPER TACTICS IP Henkey! 5-2

2.10; 1. SUPPER TAUTHUS IP HERBYLD-2 [30; 2. Pine Hervest 7: 2, 3. Senor El Be-truttil 7: 1, 7 ran. 17: 17: 18 Anny, Bland-lord Forumi Yote: 13 40; £1.50, £2:70 OF: £4.50, CSF; £10 90, Irleast, £47 55, Non Brungar Scrutter Brand. Runner Scotlish Bambi.
2.40; 1. SURMER SPELL IM A Filageraldi
11.4 Loc 2. Mr Wild 9-2; 2. Quality 10-1.
16 ran. 3.4 IN Hendesson, Lambourni Tete;
12.80, £2.10, £1.60, £2.20, £4.290. contish Bambi

£3 80, £2 10, £1,60, £2,20, £4 £12,90, £55; £14 53, 100 £122,60, £4 £12,90, £55; £14 53, 100 £122,60, £4 £14; £2 Philip's Woody 10.32 3. Rose King 16-15 ran. 9-4 for Grey Smoke Hellt 3, 8, £5, non-Earle, Summariser Newton: Tote: £3,20; £1 *20, £1,30, £1 *50,0, £55, £11,23, 3,40; £1, £56,0, £57, £11,23, £1,25, £1,23, £1,25, £1,23, £1,25, £1,23, £1,25, £1,23, £1,25,

1.11 12: Tru L3 60 4.10: 1. COMENNY BOY (N Wilkamson) 5 4.10: 1. COMEMBY BUT IT WINDSTEEL P. 2. Olympian (2), 3. Olympian (2), 3. Olympian (3), 1. Olympian (3), 1. Olympian (4), 1. Olympian (5), 1. Tomoro, Hipper Cambourni Totte: £6.00; 12.50, £2.40 DF 55.8), CSF £20.83, Non-

RACING RESULTS Jackpot: ET,100.00 (part won, pool of £3,741.33 carried forward to Kempton today).

> SOUTHWELL 12,45; 1. THE KHOINOA () Supplet 10-2. Silde On 6-4 fav; 3. Sir Boston 16-1.

12 ran. 10, 1. M/rs A Swinbank). Tote: 12-ran. 10, 1. M/rs A Swinbank). Tote: 122-90: £4.40, £1.20, £3.00, DF: £15.90, CSF: £28.46. Tro: £36.40, £1.5: 1. PET EXPRESS IL Chamocki 5-2 It fav; 2. Treasure Touch 5-2 It fav; 2. Mirror Four Sport 12-1. T ran. 1. 7. (P Haslami, Tote: £3.60; £1.80, £1.50, DF: £2.80, CSF: £8.31

58.31.
1.50: 1. RAMBO WALTZER U Bramhilli 5.
2. 2. Chaddelgh Lane 11.8 (av. 3. Sandatoor Denim 13-2. 12 ran. 8, 1%. (D Nicholis), Tota: £3.00. £1.80. £1.50. £2.00. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.75. Tho: £6.10. Non Runner: Childreng Bang. 2.20; 1. TRULY BAY (D Harrison) 11-4; 2.

2.20: 1. TRULY BAY (D Hartson) 11-4; 2. Soaked 9-4 fay: 3. Unapoken Preyer 5-2 5 ran. 3.5, rf 0 Barron. Tote: £3.80; £1.90. £1.50. OF: £4.80. CSF: £8.B.T. 2.50: 1. KINGCHIP BOY (A Clerk) 10-1; 2. Bold Aristocrat 11-1; 3. Pleasure Trick 11-2. 14 ran. 5-1 fav Avesome Vermure. ½. %. (M Ryan), Tote: £11.00; £3.10. £3.90, £4.30. DF: £41.00. CSF: £114.13. Tricast: £62T.27. Tric: £153.70.

14.30, DF: E41,00. CSF: £114.13. Tricast: £52T.27. Tric: £153.70.
3.20: 1. CALDER KING (R Lappm) 7-2; 2. Forzair 100-30; 3. Mad Militant 5-4 fav. 11 ran. nk. 4. U L Eyre. Tote: £1.00; £2.10. £2.40, £1.10. DF: £14.20. CSF: £16.3T. Tric: £5.30. After a stewards' inquery, the placings remain unaltered.
3.85: 1. CHINA CASTLE (S Drowne) 10.11 fav. 2. Qualitate Details 19.1. Coldensis 11 fav; 2. Qualitar Pride 50-1; 3. Golden Hadeer 3-1. 9 ran. 4, /L. (P Haslem). Totac £1.90; £1.10, £13.20, £1.20. Duer Forecast:

£225.20, CSF: £73.02, Tricast: £109.55. Tha: £71.60

Placepot: £15.40. Quadpot: £6.10. Place 6: £17.15. Place 5: £7.19.

David Nicholson endured a miserable first visit to Kelso yesterday. The former champion trainer sent a five-strong squad to the Scottish track but made the trek back to Gloucestershire empty-handed. The higgest disappointment was the reverse for his Triumph Hurdle contender. Soldat, in the juvenile hurdle. A winner over timber in France, the gelding started at 1-2 for his British dehut. He made a crucial mistake at the third last but finished powerfully to be just a neck behind Rossel at the line. Nicholson was not downcast by the reverse and said: "I don't just hope he is a Triumph Hurdle horse; he is a Triumph Hurdle horse. This

was his first run in Britain and he's

GREG WOOD

It is four weeks since punters last

had the chance to spend Satur-

day afternoon watching British

jumps racing, so the first task to-

day must be to resist the urge to

rush ool and back one horse af-

ter another without so much as

checking that they have the de-

sired number of legs. It may

prove a difficult resolution to

keep, since the Victor Chandler

Chase bas been added to an al-

ready excellent programme from Kempton and Haydock,

and several of today's contests

Milton Bradley, however, when

be discovered yesterday that Martin Pipe had declared Prid-

well for both the Champion

Hurdle Trial - his first prefer-

ence - at Haydock and the

Lanzarote Handicap Hurdle at

Kempton. This left Bradley 5 Te-

HAYDOCK

1.15: BIMSEY, a highly creditable

// length second to Large Action in the Grade 2 Bula Hurdle over 2m1f

at Cheltenham in December, is

well stiled by fast ground and will be hard to beat. Pridwell, a most un-reliable customer, will pose most

problems if on one of his going days.

1.45: UNGUIDED MISSILE, far

from disgraced in finishing 1% lengths second to Go Ballistic in the valuable Betterware Handicap

Chase at Ascot last month, is proven

over these tough drop fences, goes

well on a sound surface, and is still

on a fair handicap mark. Jodami looks the chief threat.

KEMPTON

12.40 Mandys Mantino

1.10 Sea Victor

1.40 Fine Thyne

2.10 Rosencratz

This was not the sentiment of

will surely prove irresistible.



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Course is on A 406 at Sunbury, Kempton Park railong station adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club X15, Juniors (10 to 26-year-olds) X12; Grandstand X10; Silver Ring S6. Accompanied children under-10 free. CAR PARK: Members X2; remainder, free.

Right-hand course, Practically that, Run-in of 200yd.

LEOPARDSTOWN - Sunday

2.05 BAILEYS ARKLE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP NOVICE CHASE £15,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £9,675

2.40 Chief's Song

3.10 Storm Alert

4.10 Tanglefoot Tipple

21.4%, ~58.08; M A Piezgerald — 18 winners, 19 170es, 19.1%, ~51.28.
BLINKERE O FURST TIBES Seed Bioga (visored) (2.10); Garrylongh (2.40).
WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Master Tribe (2.40) won at Leopardstown on Saturday.
LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Down The Pell (12.40) & Tom Brudie (2.40) have been sard 278 miles by J H Johnson from Crook, Co. 1 brham: Clay County (3.111) & Elpidoo (2.10) sent 245 miles by M Hammond from Coverham, N Yorks.

12.40	TWICKENHAM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) 2m Penaity Value £9,241.	£13,500 add
	DOWN THE FELL (42) (Ms 5 Johnson) J H Johnson 8 11 11	
	GOLDEN HELLO (35) (D) IG E Shouler) T Easterly 6 11 7	
	LAND AFAR (23) (CD) (T J Ford) P Webber 10 11 7	
	MISTER DRUM (23) (Malcolm Batchelox) M Wilenson 8 11 7	
111-117	MANDYS MANTING (35) John Plackett J Galard 7 11 3	P#
	- 6 deckared -	
TING: 9-4	Land Afar, 5-2 Mandys Mantino, 11-4 Minter Drum, 11-2 Do	we The Fell, 8-1 Gold
o		
Se Trend 8	aug 8 11 3 B Dummody 5-2 (I) Candallal 6 can	

9		Again 8 11 3 R Durneroody 5-2 (D Gandolfoi 6 ran
1	.10	JOHN COURT OF MARGATE QUALITY DECORATORS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS B) £9,000 2m 5f Penalty Value £6,285
		COURBARDL (53) (D) (BF) (Richard Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 5 11 7
		READY MOREY CREEK (52) (Roach Foods 12d) () Sherwood 6 11 4
		SEA VICTOR (35) () David Acell J L Harris 5 11 4
		ADECN (57) (Trever Machell) J Bridger 5 11 () A Magaire
		COUNTRY TARQUIN (51) (Mrs C A James) R Hodgs 5 11 0
	0.0	GWITHAN (37) (Mrs.) Holes) N Hawke 5 11.0R Greene
	OP020P!	HONEST DAVE (753) (D Newmard 8 Pearce 7 11 0
	880602	MONTECOT (FR) (9) (Sir Microsei Conneil) S Mellor 8 11 0
		SARENACARE (40) (Serera Pasics) P Hobis 5 11 0 G Torrary
1	337.03	MAPLEN MAGIC (93) (Flors of the late F Linecomb) T Casey 6 10 9

1	.40	SUNBURY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS B) £12,000 Penalty Value £8,165	added 3n
1 2 3	/0/1211 23/1: FP/3/22	PINE THYNE (89) (CO) (Peter Wiegerd) Mrs A Penett 8 11 10	M A Pitzgerak Lemrence A P MicCo
4 BEI		VOLLEYBALL (30) (Mrs M N Turnell) P Hedger 8 11 5	

ing Pipe with 10 out of 10 for cunning plans, but distinctly fewer points for sportsmanship. It may be, though, that a third successive victory will still prove beyond Make A Stand, since his rivals are unlikely to allow this front-runner the generous head start which set up his victory in

at all to the chance of Make A

Stand. Pipe's principal hope for

the race. Tejano Gold was im-

mediately scratched while Make

A Stand shortened to 6-4, leav-

the William Hill Handicap Hurdle at Sandown in December. Instead, it is worth recalling that Master Beveled (next best 2.40) would have run Make A Stand very close that day but for u desperate mistake at the last flight. He is five pounds better off today and should make it count. The weights are all against Viking Flagship (3.10) as he at-

2.15: PLEASURE SHARED, below

his best on his return to hurdling from chasing when six lengths third to Ocean Hawk in the Grade 1 Long Walk Hurdle over 3m () tilyds at As ent in December, is capable of much better than that and can turn the tables today. The others look out

jano Gold 10lb adrift of the tempts to give a stone and handicap proper when he would more to seven rivals in the Vicotherwise have been running off tur Chandler Chase, but even his true mark, but did no harm

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Cheater (Catterick 100) NB: Elpidos (Kempton 2.10)

so, the former champion two-

peak uf their form, while one of Sandown last mooth, and may those who is, stable-mate Storm now be approaching his best. Alert, seems only to win at Ascot and Sandown. It was at the bet of the day, as ROSENformer track that Storm Alert CRANTZ (nap 210) attempts to beat Ask Tom four weeks ago, which was a little less than which does not emittle him to start favourite today. Viking Flagship, by contrast, was visimiler may be the one to back. bly short of fitness when nar-Few of his opponents are at the rowly beaten by Sound Man at

LANZAROTE HANDICAP HURDLE - 10-YEAR-TALE 1987 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 Fate of the favorities: 4 8 1 8 2 2 P 2/3 1 8

Minera's place in betting: 0 0 1 0 2 - 3 0 3 1 0 Fate of the favourities: 16-1 15-2 9-4 10-1 9-2 11-2 12-1 5-1 4-5 20-1 9.10 11.4 10.7 10.3 10.310.13 10.0 10.511.10 11.2 rofft or loss to £1 states; Pavourites -£4.95 Second Pavourites -£4.50 estage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in fast race: 70% Top trainers: J Jenkins - Grey Sakute (1989), Ashaal (1990)

J Osbome - Nymegen (1994), Trying Again (1995)

Viking Flagship is the sturdiest vessel

KEMPTON 2.10: The participation of front-runis hest when held up in a strongly run race, But his late thrust may be blunted by having to give 10th to ROSENCRANTZ. This well-bred gelding looks haodily weighted.

2.40: Make A Stand deserves great respect after authoritative wins at Ascot and Sandown. This track should suit him even better, but at such cramped odds it could well be worth taking him on with CHIEF'S SONG. Simon Dow's seven-year-old looked as good as ever when win-ning here in October,

3.10: STORM ALERT, who heat Ask Tom (11b better off today) by 1/2 length at Ascot last mooth, may be the better suited of the pair by today's faster surface and can confirm the placings. Viking Flagship is well handicapped despite top weight on his best form but is taking longer to come to hand nowadays while Dancing Paddy, who jumped better than usual when winning at Chel-tenham recently, is still liable to make a costly mistake.

3.40: LACKENDARA, a creditable 11 leoghs third to Trying Again wheo 12% out of the handicap here To Seven looks the danger.

514123 COCKNEY LAD (D Daly) N Mende 8 11 10.

A I G EUROPE CHAMPION HURBLE £51,500 added 2m Penal-ty Value £34,000

7 27386-0 MOTCOMPLAININGEUT (Mrs C A Moore) P Mutins 6 11.5T P Tn
-7 declared -
BETTING: 7-4 Escartefigue, 7-2 Uruhanda, Zabudi, 5-1 Theatreworld, 6-1 Danifel, 8-1 Cockaey
33-1 Notcomplainingbut
1996; Collier Bay 6 11 10 J Osborne 5-1 (J Old) 11 ran

	2.10	VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m Sf	C4
1		LUCKY BLUE (\$29) (F.R. Noumer) S Fore 10 12 0	
2	F05-220	CALL MY GUEST (31) (Derek O Clee) R Peacock 7 11 7	A P McCo
3	4.54500	ALLTIME DANCER (28) (H M Heyman) O Sherwood 5 11 3	
4		DUALS (F4) (36) Chilan Durcan) J Apriles 8 11 3	
5		ELPIDOS (35) (Mrs Marg Writer) M Hammond 5 11 2	
6		MORSTOCK (47) (Ms M Fakham) R Hodges 7 10 10	
7	11-2541	BARFORD SOVEREIGN (57) (D) (Parlow Bloodstock) J Fanshaue 5 10 7	
ė		ROSENCRANTZ (51) (BF) (L.) Futord Max V Williams 5 10 6	
ě		SHUBGLER'S PORT (USA) (45) (45) (45) (47) V R Hoard J Broker 7 10 5	
10		STORM DUST (39) (C) (R J Surley Ticel Mass H Wright 8 10 5	
11		SECO RIOGA (35) (D) (S P Tirobit 5 Melor 8 10 4	
		KALASADI (USA) (38) (D) IG A Libsort V Soone 8 10 7	
		ROYAL PETER (NZ) (ST) (A M Desirgons A J Wison 10 10 C.	

was besten a couple of lengths by Hay Dance when a 2-5 chance in a slowly run race back at the latter track. Epidoe wound up last season with a hat trick and has been running well without winning the term. This will be his first outling at two miles five but he should last home on this easy course. Mension was a good second to General Moukar over a funding further at Wincanton after winning over the minimum there, while Sawagalan's Point gots the trip and will have Adrian Maguine's assistance.

Selection: BARFORD SOVEREGIN

	2	2.40	LANZAROTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2m	C4
,	1	3P3F0-5	PROWELL (35) (C) Llones, Berspot, and Reet Partnershot M Pipe 7 12 0.	
•	2	2306-32	MASTER BEVELED (42) (D) (Mc E J Williams) P O Barre 7 10 10	C Brade
	3	4020-14	SILVER GROOM (42) (D) (The Saver During Partnership) R Alerhuist 7 10 8	S Rows
	4	03P4-16	CHEF'S SONG (83) (CD) (Mr) Arrie Device) S Dow 7 10 7	D Gardage
	5		DREAMS END (42) (D) (T G Proof P Bower 9 10 5	
	6		KISSAIR (270) (DI (Terry Berson) N Hersterson 6 10 5	
	7		ASHWELL BOY (28) (D) (A 8 S Racing) P Hobbs 6 10 5	
	8	1-17511	MANUE A STAND (28) (D) (P A Deat) M Pipe 6 10 3	A P McC
	8		GALES CAVALER (63) (D) (Stangt Reong) () Candollo 9 10 ()	
	10	111/4-	ROLL A DOLLAR (448) (CD) (N Costalo) () Smorth 11 10 C	P Not
•	11		MASTER TROBE (7) (0) (Jebel Ali Racing Stables) Mrs J Pierren 7 10 0	
	17		MYTTON'S CHOICE (23) (ID) (Sortion Mytion) () Nicholson 6 10 (
•	13		TON BROOKE (35) (0) (SE) 645 M W Bird J H Johnson 7 10 0	
		30613-0	ROS CASTLE (170) (D) (Miss R Dobsor) R Hodges 8 10 0	11
	15	5204-41	TEIANO GOLD (USA) (28) (D) (P Bradley) P Bradley 7 10 0	Doubt

Montmum weight: 10st. True handcop weights: Rol A Dollar Set 12bt. Mediar Tribe Set 12bt. Mytten it Cholos Set 12bt. Tom Brodie Set 12bt. Ros Castle Set 11bt. Tejeno Gold Set 4bt.
BETTRN: 15-8 Make A Stand, 7-1 Mediar Bevelled, 9-1 Chief's Song, 10-1 Silver Broom, 12-1 Sales
Careller, 14-1 Mytten's Cholos, Tom Brodie, 18-1 Dresons End, 25-1 Asternal Boy, Manair, Roll A
Dollar, 33-1 Ros Castle
1996: Warm Spell 6 11 2 A P McCoy 20-1 (G t. Moorel 11 ran

FORM GUIDE

The weights have been prevented from gaing up a stone by Mortin Pipe leaving in Priowell (who runs at Haydockl and this will be a big help to MAKE A STAND. The su-year-old best Maester Bevelot (2th better) a couple of lengths in the Wilstein Hit Handicap Hurdis Sandown less month with Salver Grooms (Fib better) fourth and Dreams End a long way back and should confirm superiority. He followed up with another all-the-way victory in a Grade Two at Ascot and this sharp track is made for him. Chieffs Song, the 1995 Wilstein Hardis Roman Landon and Standard Chieffs and Market Roman Landon Research. Hell Handicap Hurdle victor and game winner over course and distance on his reepyrance, finished seven lengths adult of Make A Stand when they were fifth and soth to Space Trudier at Cheltentham in November. Simon Dow's charge has a 12th adventage and may he the one to follow the terounite home.

Selections: MAKE A STANO

say, hang on, we're in January

further improve Venetia Will-

Kempton also provides the

صكنا من الاعل

iams's outstanding strike-rate. might have been expected of "People keep saying I've had a Tom Tate's chaser, and a reverse good start to the season, and I oow," she said receotly. "Most of it's gone." Her winning percentage is still 40 per ceot, however, and long may it continue. At Haydock, the Champion

Hurdle Trial is, for once, worthy of the name, with three prominent names in the antepost market, Dato Star (10-1). Birnsey (20-1) and Mistinguett (33-1) among the field, oot to mention form lines to the likes of Space Trucker and Large Ac-tion. It is supporters of the latter who should be most satisfied by the result, since Bimsey (1.15), runner-up to Large Action at Cheltenham last time, lonks the probable winner.

Sun Alliance Chase at last year's Festival, will jump a fence in public for the first time since in the Peter Marsh Chase, but his run in a Bangor hurdle before Christmas was most disappointing and Unguided Missile

There will be more Champi-

on Hurdle clues in Ireland tomorrow in the Irish equivalent at Leopardstown, eveo though Collier Bay, winning of both races last year, is still not forward enough to make his seasonal reappearance. David Nicholson's team of Zabadi and Escartefigue, though, give Britain every chance of a fourth win in eight years, with Theatreworld and Urubande most likely to keep the prize at bome. Nichol-son also runs Mulligan io the Arkle Cup, but few among the crowd will expect anything but victory for Danoli as a Gold Cup challeoge in his oovice season grows ever more likely.

(1.45) looks a safer het.

Horse (Trainer/weight)	Coral	Willem Hill	Ladbrokes	Total
Make A Stand (M Ape/10st3lb)	6-4	11-a	13-8	13-6
Master Beveled (P D Evans/10st10	DI 9-1	6-1	6-1	9-2
Chief's Song (S Dow/10st7th)	8-1	8-1	7.1	6-1
Silver Groom (R Alehurst/10st8lb)	7-1	7.1	8-1	8-1
Myttep's Choice (D Nicholson/10st)	20-1	5-1	8-1	11-1
Tom Brodie (J H Johnson/10st)	12-1	12-1	12-1	9-1
Gales Cavaller (D Gandulfo/10st)	7-1	7.1	9-1	14-1
Dreams End (P Bower/10st5b)	16-1	16-1	11-1	16-1
Kissair (N Henderson/10st5lb)	25-1	25-1	20-1	25-1
Roll A Dollar (D Dsworth 10st)	20-1	33-1	33-1	25-1
Ashwell Boy (P Hobbs/10st5b)	33.1	40-1	20-1	25-1
Ros Castle (R Hodges/10st)	40-1	40-1	33-1	33.1
Pridwell (M Pipe/12st)	doubtful	doubtful	doubtul	doubtfu
Master Tribe (Mrs J Promary10st)	doubtful	doubthul	doubtful	doubth
Tejano Gold (P Bradley/10st)	doubtful	doubthi	doubthu	doubtfu

Horse (Trainer/weight)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tota
Ask Tom (7 Tate/10st10(b)	9-4	15-8	7-4	5-2
Storm Alert (0 Nicholson/10st8lb)	4.1	9-2	9-2	7-2
Big Matt (N Henderson/10st)	4-1	9-2	4-1	5-1
Viding Flegship (0 Nicholson/11st10)	b) 6-1	6-1	8-1	9-2
Dancing Paddy (K C-Brown/10st2lb)	10-1	20-1	10-1	9.1
Clay County (M Hammond/10st)	7-1	7.1	10-1	12-1
Klibreet (P Hobbs/10st)	11.1	12-1	10-1	10-1
Calificoe Bay (O Sherwood/10st)	16-1	16-1	20-1	12-1

_			
		3.10	VICTOR CHANDLER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A (Grade 2) £35,000 2m
	1	11712-2	VIEWE PLACESHIP (42) (CD) (Reach Foods Limited) () Nicholson 10 11 10.
	2	1161-11	ASK FORK (28) (D) (BF) (BT Stewart-Brown) T Tate 8 10 10
	3	54-1131	STORM ALERT (28) (0) (IA'S Davin Percet) O Nicholson 11 10 8
	4	2003-31	DANCING PADDY (85) (D) (Bycronce Racing K Currengham-Brown 9 10 2
	5	4F101-2	CLAY COLINTY (Rd.) (I) (The County Set) M Hammond 12 100
	6		BIG MATT (35) (C) (D) (T Berdeld & W Brown) N Henderson 9 10 0
	7	4215-02	ICERCET (36) (D) (66) (Terry Werner) P Robbs 10 10 0
	a		CALLISOE BRY (36) (D) (R Waters) O Shenecod 8 20 0

Minimum: 20st, True weigher: Clay County 9st 3.3tt, Big Matt 9st 1.2tt, Nitreet 9st 1.1tt, Callisce Bay Bet Gib, IEETTING: 9-4 Ask Town, 7-2 Storm Alert, 9-2 Rig Matt, 6-1 Viding Ragoldy, 7-1 December Packly, 10-1 Kimmert, 12-1 Clay County, 14-4 Callisco Bay 1986: Jurn at Ascoti Big Matt 8 10 4 M A Rizgerald 8-1 (N Honderson) 11 mm

14-12/25 RAIASAM BEAGES (DI TO A Month of STO) (Free CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-13 declared
15-14 month of children under-10 free. CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-15 month of children under-10 free. CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-15 month of children under-10 free. CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-16 month of the control of the children under-10 free. CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-16 month of the control of the children under-10 free. CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-16 month of the control of the children under-10 free. CAR PARE Members S2; remainder, free.

15-16 month of the control of t

13	140	SUN PUNTERS CLUB FULWELL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2m 4f 110yds
		(CLASS B) £10000 acced 2m 4f 110yes
1	110F25	STRONG MEDICINE (28) (D) (Dr O 8 A 540 N Baley 10 11 10
2		GO UNIVERSAL (85) (D) (Universal Conference Try Ligh C Brooks 9 11 10 G Bredley
3	224521	STATELY HOME (ST) (II) IP Boweni P Bowen 6 11 2
4	PF54-43	LACKENDARA (55) (C) (Opening Bid Partnershot) Mess H Knight 10 10 8
5	2125-22	FIVE TO SEVEN (USA) (35) (BF) (Two Plus Two) P Nicholls 8 10 7
6	13-7111	BEATSON (30) (Ms E 8 Gerdher) R Bucker 8 10 2 & Hogen (3)
7	113-260	GARRYLOUGH (43) (T J Wholeys O Gardollo 8 10 1
		- 7 declared -
BE	TINE 3-1	Bestson, 100-30 Stately Home, 7-2 Five To Seven, 4-1 Go Universal, 11-2 Lackendara

8-1 Earrytough, 12-1 Strong Medicine 1998: Master Boston 8 11 7 L Wyer 3-1 (R Woodhouse) 7 ran

1990: Masser Boston 8 11 7 L Wyer 3-1 (R Woodhouze) if ran FORN CURDE Garryfough is tried in blinkers after two unplaced efforts following her second to Larry's Lord at Stratford on her return. Sive might be the one to cause BEATSON most trouble, Bestson would probably have won at Wincarston in November on he return but for fating when leading his to out. He has ance made amends by lending his three races since and can carry on the good work despute going off a mark 17th higher than when landing the hat-hick at Plumpton. Stattely Home was writing for the eighth time this term when 12 tengths too good for Strong Medicaine at Sandown and should have no trouble confirming the form on 6b worse terms. Five To Severa would have won at Wincarston last morth on 11s first outling the season if the heal not been hempered and refused two out. He was beaten lair and square by Massan at Lingfield but should not be far away. Bo Unitversal and Strong Medicine will find it tough giving 22b to the selection but dual course winner Lackenders ran tinful to Tryng Agsan here last time and should put up another good display. Selections BEATSON

flyn	ARBA1	here last time and should put up another good display. Selection: BEATSON
4	10	WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £1,650 2m
1		CHEMIN-DE-FER (28) (Richard J Gray) 8 Prance 5 11 5Mas K Hills
2	5-5	CLERGING (42) G Harwood Mrs A Perrett 6 11 5 Mrs A Perrett
3		EMEARGO U L Dunkon J Dunkon 5 11 5
4		CREMATIC (Ars J Hids) N Havin 6 11 5
5		SHAVANO (257) (Ars H Vest) M Madgalck 5 11 5 B Fenton
6	0-2	TANGLEFOOT TEPLE (224) (Mrs J E Purde) R Alner 8 11 5P Henley (3)
7		STAR ISLAND (High Seas Leasure Limited) () Elsworth 4 10 7Mir N Moran (7)
8		TEN TIMES (USA) (Times of Wagari) M Pipe 4 10 7A P McCoy
9		CURRER BELL (Cristopher Murray) C Murray 4 10 2

- 8 declared -EETTING: 9-4 Templefoot Tippie, 11-4 Embergo, 3-1 Ten Times, 12-2 Clinking, 12-1 Star Inland, 16 Carner Bell, 20-1 others 1996: Colonel Bisser 4 10 2 8 F Ryon 4-1 (Mass H Kngro) 21 ran

CATTERICK

HYPERION 1.00 Cheater 1.30 Bold Boss 2.00 Chummy's Saga 2.30 Gale Ahead 3.00 Beau Matelot 3.30 Abbeylands 4.00 Phar Smoother

GOING: Good.

Lel-trand course, unablating and sharp. Run-in 240yds.

Lel-trand course, unablating and sharp. Run-in 240yds.

Course is NW of town on A6136. Durlington station 14m. ADMISSION: Club 511; Tattersalls 57; Course 52.50 [under 16a free into all enclosures]. CAR PARE: Members 52, remainder free. SIS CHANNEL

BLINKERE O FIRST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN CAIS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Far Senior (2.20) sent 206 ndles
from P Wegmann from Maisemore, Gloucesternine: Chassic-Jester
(1.00) sent 201 ndles by R Champion from Newmarket, Suffelk. 1 00 SWALE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000

닏	LUU	
1	53-155	MULTIC OFFICIALS (29) T Factory B 11 4
2	5-12432	THE PROPERTY OF MENTINES OF THE PROPERTY (1) 121. LE MICLEONZICK ((1)
3	0000-3	**************************************
4	USP55-0	CATTORNACION (SIGNAL SIGNAL SI
5	2-552	AUSTREE (*2) Housing Johnson b 10 12
8	50-340	OF THE ENGINE (40) Mrs. M. REAGEN (11) 12
7	000-P	OF ADDRESS RESTAR (213) R Charmion 5 10 12
В	24-200	ALCANGOLID 1991 F MURTIN 7 10 12 Janes (1920) 10 17
9		CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE
10	3	From Step 7301 Table 5 1D 12
11	00-432F	mag new rate Northern & 1D 12
11		MANUAL SALES COLOR HALLS - MALLE (TR. TT I I MANUAL AND A CANADA
13	005/P	LIAM'S LOSS (39) J Paries 8 10 17
14		THE STATE OF THE PROPERTY OF T
15	04-30	PHAR ECHO (45) L Luceo 6 10 12R Supple
16	_	THE STORY ON A 1471 I LYCHICH O III I
17	0/6	PRINCE OF SAINTS (46) M Hammond 8 10 12 A Dobbin
18	030-60	WELBURN BOY (8) R Woodhouse 5 10 12 B Storey 8
19		DARRING MASIC / Hernerton 5 10 ?E Callegram [3]
20		ALST POLITY H ARECITED S 10 7
갶		NAMES FROM MY (523 F Muroly 5 10 7 Hr R Thorston (5)

1.30 BEDALE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 1 530017. DARRING PAST (225) (D) M Hearmond 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 9 _____ A Dobble 2 2000-18 POYAN (225) (E) R Fahry 7 11 3 ____ A R Fahry 8 (5) A SPRING (5) A READ (6) A READ

•••	. ,	
	2.00	CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HYCA HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m
1	6.30546	AMORAK (USA) (81) G Moore 7 12 0
2	0942-00	(NOVE BET (8) (D) Mess / Crass 9 11 3 M Nove
3	0402	BOY BLANDNEY (28) No. 5 Street 4 11 2 R Williamon 1
4	08300-2	WEATHER ALERT (43) K Norgan 6 11 1R Masse
5	SPE-462	CHARACT'S SASA (45) L Lungo 7 10 13 J Arring (4
		ENVIRONMENTAL LAW (31) W Nickeown 6 10 12 G Cond
6	00-0652	
7	.,	APPEARANCE MONEY (31) Falurity 6 10 12 T Hogs (4
В	Q05-00P	FAMILIAR ART (29) (CD) O Motion 8 10 10
9	00-5	BOLD TOP (SE) B ROOWel 5 10 7E Calleghan
10	066	MINUTED (5) H Alexander 5 10 6 R McGrad
11	50-0	IOSECHEM (47) C Grant 8 10 5Mildrael Brenow
12	54PU00	SEE YOU ALWAYS (5) (D) M Barres 7 10 0 S Taylor 8
13	AIXIUPS	ARTHUR BEE (45) 8 Bousteld 10 10 0 C McCorneck (4
14	00-0502	SECONDS AWAY (32) J Golde 6 10 0
15	POP/P	TOUGH CHARACTER (43) M Soversby 9 10 0 N Homodis (4 - 15 declared -
		The Ton Landon when the three flow 12th Acts

I S	20	LEEMING HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS	SE
1	-30	£4,075 added 3m 1f 110yds	
1	434P.3P	FAR SENIOR (49) (III) P Wegmenn 11 11 12Gary Lyo	8 8
	33011-3	RUSSIAN CASTLE (4) J Wate 8 11 9 X A	CETES.
		POTATO MAN (31) 8 Discri 11 11 3 A Oc	
4	1-03-02	GALE AVEAD (45) (0) G Moore 7 11 2N Ber	dev
		WARCHWOOD (30) N Chambelein 10 11 2 T /	
8	USSEP U	TWM STATES (45) (CD) I furner 8 11 2	Fry
7		SISTER ROSZA (31) Mis 5 Lamphon 9 11 1 Derek B	
	22-2384	THE TOUSTER (31) (C) Mez M Malegon 10 10 13 A S S	
8		HEAVENLY CITIZEN (30) (CD) J Glotson 9 10 13 B St	
		SPARROW HALL 1305 J REGERAL 10 10 BF Leph	
		JONDEE (29) 8 Elison 9 10 3	
17	453 PP1	THE SOLDIER (FR) (31) (C) M Baradough 10 10 2 . R Se	cole
13		OLE OLE (67) Mrs E Moseroo 11 10 0	
14	SEAS DE	SNOOK POSHT (28) () Lamb 10 10 0	- in
15	DEDED/A	TM BY CLOVER (427) J Norton 8 10 0 B Godda	- (7)
10	CEL TO	NEMBARE RIVER (35) R Collins 7 10 0 Littr R Thornton	3.6
17	BUNG	ERRORIT DESTRIY (39) J Golde 6 10 0 C Lo	633
*1	L-Article	- 17 decised -	- 14
104		no 10st. True handlage weight: Smoot Point Sat 7th. Tru in	-
MILE	INDII NEW	Her Sign 4th, Bright Destiny 8st 6th	Part Ca
211	STREET, CO.	NE 32 40' CIÊN PERIS ON ON	

ю	MEN COR	96, \$-1.5(SETON POR, 10-1 ON ONE, 12-1 GUISTS
3	3.00	LEYBURN HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m
•	6711-406	MASTER HYDE (38) (D) W Skorty 8 12 0 R McGrath (5)
2	3455-00	89(0 SABLE (42) (D) F Storey 7 11 13 B Storey
ã	77.4503	ALBURN BOY (33, D) M W Easterly 1011 11 _ Michael Bresson (5)
4	00.1233	METERAC (66) (D) (BF) W.C.mington 5 11 101 McGraft (7)
5	224	STAR SELECTION (29) J Macke 6 11 6 E Husband [2]
8		SHAHERAM (427) P Beaumont 9 11 6
	COACC S	TAPATOR (296) (CD) M W Estaty 9 116 P Middley (3)
.7	2000	ALI CLEAR (289) [D) JH Johnson 6 11 4
	3,1200-	and promote (St. del 1) Comment C 44 7
9	mr-one	DEL PERO (47) (D) M Hammond 6 11 3 A Dobble
10	4142-00	JEMMA PUDDLEDUCK (39) (CD) A Streeter B 11 1 Y Eley V
11	F471124	MR MORIARTY (298) (CD) 5 Bowing 6 11 0 M Foster
12	3053-00	SSUNDAUN (50) O MORAIL 6 10 10
13	MF05-P	BALLANDAR (50) (D) 8 Portural 8 10 8
14	03525-6	BEAU MATELOT (SE) Mess M Malegon 5 10 7
15	474531	ROBSERA (36) (0) J.Quan 6 10 6
16	00,0007	SATFRING MOON (45) F Jordan 5 10 6S Wysne B
17	531	
	EAS 22	HERE COMES HERBIE (29) W Storey 5 10 5
18		WHEN AND READ RESIDENCE AND A STREET WHEN A STREET WHEN AND A STREET WHEN AND A STREET WHEN A ST
19	014-2	
		= 19 declared -

,	200	SEAMER NOVICE HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 3f	CHAS
•	3.30	(CLASS E) £4,075 added 2m 3f	
	U12/35-1	LIEN DE FAMILLE (29) J Quan 7 11 0	B Storey
	225121	TWEN FALLS (30) (C) G M Moore 6 11 8	Callegan
		ABSEYLANDS (71) J H Joynson 9 11 3	
		MONNAIE FORTE (50) J Adam 7 11 2	
	16/F223-	1010W-NO-NO (322) M Hammond 8 10 9	A Dobbie
		WORLD WITHOUT END (39) M Sowesty 8 10 8	
		SARBO'S BOY (33) J Turner 7 10 5	
		BOSWORTH FIELD (30) (CD) Mrs S HHader 9 10 4.1	
		CAMPTOSAURUS (40) O Alder 8 10 1	
0		MOST RICH (812) 8 Elison 9 10 0	
i	RARDED	WEE WIZARD (33) M Barnes 8 10 0S	Tendor (5)
ī	612-4PP	BOSSYMOSS (29) A Specier 8 10 0	T Boy
ī		KARENASTINO (S1) Mis 5 Smith 6 10 D	
4		MARLINGFORD (49) Mrs J Jardan 10 10 0 Mrs	
Š		KETULIA (39) Mrs 6 Smith 7 10 0R WI	
_		- 10 declared -	(,,
ĸ	drum water	fit: 10st. True weights: Most Rich 9st 13th. Who Witten	d 9et 118
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		t 10th, Kerenestino 9st 9th, Marlingtond 9st 6th, 19tutle 9st 5th.
		4 Abbeylands, 3-1 Twin Faits, 5-1 Lion De Familie, 8-1 Kil- sworth Field, 12-1 Know No-No, Garbo's Roy, 14-1 others
	s, 10-1 ec	Mendada Lidier' 17-1 ympid-iso-iso' esuba a mbil- 14-1 gracus
1	.00	CATTERICK MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
ב	1.00	RACE (CLASS H) £1,500 added 2m
1	34	BELLY BUCKSTON (28) J Norman 5 11 10 Nr R Thornton (6)
2		BRUKDSBY MINSTER (30) P Beaumont & 11 10T Haggier (7)
3		EASTCLETTE (35) W McFerver 5 11 10
4		HELPERSY J. H. Johnson 5 11 10
5	0	HINTING SLAVE (30) C Gard 5 11 10. Afficiant Breman (5)
5		NOSAN (789) N Mason 7 11 10S Hawarth (7)
7	0	PHAR SMOOTHER (35) J ForGerald 5 11 10 F Leaby (3)
3		RECCA (30) Dens Smith 5 11 10 R Series (7)
3		SHOOTY ESIGNO (29) J Holdens 5 11 10 E Collegium (2)
0	- 1	STONESEY G Moore 5 11 10R Hensity (7)
11		SUNSTRUCE R McDonald 5 11 10 C McCorreack (7)
12	04	THE STUFFED PUFFIN (SO) L LUNCO 5 11 10 I Jurdice (7)
13		TEAL PACE (46) Haldane 5 11 10 P Middley (3)
14		NUSS FORTRIA (46) J Curts 5 11 5
5	•	SEVEN FOUR SEVEN Mrs. L. Williamson 8 11.55 Taylor (5)
16	0-	SUPPREME THREET (266) Mrs M Reveloy 5 11 5 G Late (3)
17		THE MUCKLE COME (28 J J O'Nell B 11 5 R McGrath (5)
8		AUTUSON LORD P Beaumont 4 10 12 B Gretten (7)
9		HAWKERS DEAL O Noten 4 10 11 R Massey (3)
		JO LIGHTNENC 8 Elison 4 10 11
00		SUDDLEIA J Turner 4 10 7N Horrocks (7)
-		(0)

The work present and any managed transport and the contract of the contract of

HAYDOCK

12.45 Minella Derby 2.45 Simply Dashing 1.15 Bimsey 3.15 Easthorpe 1.45 UNGUIDED MISSILE (nap) 3.45 Colour Code 2.15 Pleasure Shared

GOING: Good to Firm.

Course is near junction of A'tsil and bio, Newton station 2m. ADMISSION: County Stand \$17, Tamersalls \$10, Newton Stand \$2, bull-price in Tattersalls and Newton

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: G Richards 32 winners from 103 runners at a ratio of 30.8% giving a return to a \$1 level stake of \$6.95 M Pipe 27 winners, 123 minners, 29.8%, \$50.01.3 Fitted-genid - 11 stumers, 52 minners, 26.9%, +\$19.10; N Twiston-Dayles - 11 winners, 50 minners, 29.7%, +\$6.18. M Downers, 12 minners, 29.7%, +\$6.18. M Downers, 17 109 15.0 \$50.00; O 3 ridgwater - 11 winners, 12 ridgs, 20.2%, \$12.31; M Downers, 11 winners, 52 ridgs, 21.2%, \$20.03, A Dobbin - 11 winners, 56 ridgs, 10.0%, 58.91; L Wyer - 11 winners, 54 ridgs, 17.5%, +\$2.00.

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: Scotton Banks (twenty) (1.451; Easthorpe (3.15). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Master Tribe (1.15) wan at Leopardstown last Scottridey.

has Sounday.

LONG CESTANCE RUNNERS: Copper Boy (2.15), Flaxleywood (12.15) & Mel (12.45) sent 220 miles by B Buckler from Melphah, Dorset.

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C Mau
Durwoo
W Marrie
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C Liewell
Williams
. D Mon

BETTING: 3-1 Komekta Queen, 4-1 Minella Derby, 9-2 Harbour Island, 6-1 Pleasureland, 8-1 Galen.
10-1 Bentleet, Transladisto, 14-1 Cab Caribbean, 16-1 Mr Christie, Tweedswood, 20-1 Ghry, La Mon Dere, Leep in The Dark, 25-1 others
1996: Three Philosothers 7 11 12 C Llevelyn exers (7 Forster) 10 ran

	1.15	CHAMPION HURDLE TRIAL (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £30,000 added 2m Penalty Value £18,860
1		RIGHT WIN (35) (0) (Coral Navaragh) & Hanson 7 12 10 J. A McCarthy
2	10151-6	TRAGIC HERO (28) (CD) (EF) (Aregin Harks Partiership: M Pipe 5 11 10 D Walsh B
3	111/1F-3	DATO STAR (49) (D) in Riley, New Vi Gazone & J Donald i J M. Jefferson & 11 (Richard Guest
4	3P3F0-5	PREDWELL (35) (D) clones, Berstod, and Real Parmershot M Pipe ; 11 7C Maude
5	31:143-2	BRASEY (85) (0) Outan J Riani R Alichura 1 11 3 R Durwoody
6		EDIPO RE (Tony Eaves) P Hotos 5 11 3P Carbony
7	100-021	MASTER TRIBE (7) (D) Jebel Ali Racing Stablesi Mrt J Primari 1 11 3 N Williamson
8	40-1421	MISTINGUETT (28) (D) Lichn Duggani N Tusson-Panez 5 11 2
9	6F0-502	ESIGNO NEL (28) (D) iFirst Chance Roong) J Spearing 6 10 12 D Bridgewiter
		- 9 declared -
BE	TTING: 15-4	B Blancey, 3-1 Dato Star, 9-2 Priceoff, 8-1 Master Tribe, Mistingsett, 12-1 Eskino

Net, 16-12 Tragic Hero, 20-1 Edipo Re, Right Win 1998: Mysiv 6 11 2 J Osborne 10-11 (C Egertoni o ran

MASTER TRIBE, winner of The Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle off a foother weight at Leopardstown last Saturday, is a progressive type who is tancied to hold his own in this higher league, it was a close thing at the end with Moster Tribe having to be noticen high out to hold off Black Queen, but he looked the writer I his the Champion Hurdle on the agenda and a win today from such as Binnesy would put him smack in the picture bearing in mind that Binnsey has a much higher handscap rating than Master Tribe, and fast ground suited him at Antibe 14 months ago when he dotted up under 12% from Thornton Gate, Binnsey has the weights in his favour to reverse last season's Sandown form with Estland Net, while Protwell third in this last year is tricky to catch right and seems to save his best for Chetzenham – his third to Coher Bay in the Champion last March proving the point. Dato Star has the first ground to overcome and he's bypossed even though he did little writing in defect on the good ground when that to Space Trucker and Caste Sweep in the Fighting Fifth Handicap at Newcastle, Mistinguett should ensure a good pace judged on her latest Ascot win from the front. She is now 4th worse off with the four-length second, lestwin Net, and 5th worse with Tringle Here I spirit, who can be expected to improve for that run. Trage Here has proven fast ground on the source, but the weight concession sets him a task. Right Williams the mud and is held by Binnsoy, and newcomer Edipo Re won on the Rist in hay for John Dunlop.

Selection: MASTER TRIBE

	L.45	PETER MARSH LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS A) (Grade 2) £40,000 3m £24,776	BBC1
1	21P24-2	JODAN (63) (CU) U N Yeadon) P Beaumort 11 11 10	N Williamson
2		LINGUIDED MISSILE (28) (CD) (D E Harrson) G Richards 9 11 6	
3		MAKITHEM LAD (31) ICI U Shawi Mrs J Priman 8 11 4	
4	P1P-443	SCOTTOM BANKS (35) (CD) (BF) (I Boy) T Easterby 8 11 1	P Carberry \
5		AVRO AMSON (280) (D) (B P Skirton) M Competto 9 10 7	
6		GRANGE BRANE (42) (D) (Mrs. J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 11 10 7 — 6 declared —	
16	enum seig	ht: 10st 7lb, 7nx handezip weights: Avro Anson 10st, Grange Brake 9:	2 1/h.

BETTING: 11-10 Ungaided Missile, 7-2 Jodani, 9-2 Nahthen Lad, 6-1 Avro Asson, 10-1 Scotts

Banks, 25-1 Gramge Brake 1996: Scotton Banks 7 11 6 R Centity 15-8 (M H Easterby) 6 r an

FORM GUIDE

NAHTHEN LAD has won on this programme for the past two years and attempts to go one better than stablemate Smath's Band in this 12 morths ago. The fast ground would have to be a worry and Nahthen Lad defin't snow much over hundes on its reappearance, but he loves going left-handed and could be up to beating Unguided Missile if returning to the form that enabled him to beat Mr Mulligan in the Sun Atlance (Nowlee) Chase last March, Unguided may be added to the sound that the sun for the standards has could be up to be form that enabled in motion the search are not included in the banded rich, the standard was the standard of the standard Missile in particular experience to Indiana in the banded rich, the standard in the standards in the standards. March. Unguided Missée is getting ever-closer to Jodania in the handicap, his rating is 10th higher compared to the course was from Couldn't Be Better in November and 5th higher after his fine attempt in defeat when gwing lumps of weight away to Go Ballisto at Ascot. Unguided Missele jumps this tourse really well and has an obvous chance with his ability to cope well with fast ground. Jodanni has a changed nider in Norman Williamson and he's definitely in with a shout after hunting up The Grey Monk at Ayr. The Grand No-bonal et his target, but he certainly has a chance at the weights conceding just allo to Unguided Missele. Scotton Basik's, super-game when winning the last year, has lost his week become the first-horse upon. He see her a releter ridge today in Bad Carbonius in the way hence the first-bone way. He also has a quieter rider today in Paul Carbony so the dual change could easily bring about improvement from this well handcapped galding. Aven Asson was a decern, notice last season and on a reasonable handicap mark, de-spite being 7th wrong here, on his Amtree run against Addington Boy. He likes fast ground and is preferred to Grange Braike, who is but of his depth. Selection: NAHTHEN LAD

		2.15	PREMER LONG DISTANCE HURDLE (CLASS A) BBC1 (Grade 2) £20,000 added 2m 7f 110yds £12,740
ı	1	236-121	OCEAN HAWK (28) IM Archer & Miss J Broadhurs) N T-Davies 5 11 10 C Llewellyn
1	2	011-173	PLEASURE SHARED (28) (Tony Exest) P Hobbs 9 11 10
ı	3	51P/1	COPPER BOY (52) (C. Raymond) R Bucker 8 11 3
1	4	2/00013	MRIDAFEM (288) (CD) (in Touch Racing Club) Mrs J Pernan 11 11 3
	5	43P/0	REALING (USA) (49) (C) (1 O MacDonett) K Burke 11 11 3 M Williamson
	6		TOP SPEI (26) Julian Durcan) J Jenkes S 11 3
			- 8 declared -

BETTUGE: 11-8 Ocean Hawk, 9-4 Pleasure Shared, 4-1 Copper Boy, 6-12 Modulius, 12-1 Top Spin

20-1 Ruling 1990: Better Times Ahead 10 11 3 A Dobbin 4-1 (G Richards) 11 ran

1996: Beter Times Ahead 10 11 3 A Dobbin 4-1 IG Richards) 11 ran FORM GURDE.

Two years ago, Royal Athlete finished third in this en route to his Grand National win so watch out for Mrs Primari's Mudahlim, who won this race two years ago when trained by Chris Broad. It is interesting that Pleadure Shared and Top Spin take on OCEAN HAWK again after the Long Walk at Assot. Ocean Hawk will have his favoured surface once more after the all-the-way win from Traingdot at Ascot and he meets Pleasure Shared third) on identical terms. Pleasure Shared its a chaser and it showed when the pace was increased from the home turn. This ground will he just as fast here so he looks set for another teer new of Ocean Hawk. Top Spin-never really got in a blow at Assot and ideasn't look up to the task even with the 7th pull for the 11-length beating. Bob Buckler's Copper Boy was a very easy writer from Kalesadi in a Windsor handicap on his reappearance. Copper Boy is taking on a different stamp of opposition loday, but he was a promising writing notice before his problems and he gets 7th from the top pair.

Selection: CCEAN HAWK

	2.45		ST. HELENS COLLEGE STUDENTS NOVICE CHASE (CLASE) £17,000 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £11,715	
	1	5-11F11	STAPLY DASHING (28) (D) (Store Hammond) T Easterly 6 11 11	
	2	20122F	BALLYLINE (52) (The 49 Partnersho) W Kesto 6 11 9	
	3	3P-P221	FLIMSY TRUTH (36) OM H Weston; M Weston 11 11 9	
1	4	U4-0310	LA MEZGRAY (52) (BP) Oles J E Hantons I Mrs J Hantons 9 11 4	
- 1			- 4 declared -	

BETTING: 2-5 Simply Dashing, 7-2 Filmay Tratts, 5-1 Ballytine, 25-1 Le Mezora; 1996: Nahthen Lad 7 11 10 W Marston 10-11 (Mrs J Paman) 6 ran 3.15 OLD HALL COUNTRY CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £10,500 added 2m Penalty Value £7,163

j	2	126-204	EASTHORPE (37) (CD) (Marun Broughton) Miss H Kinglet 9 11 9 F Tidley
ı	3 :	105224-	TIME WON'T WAIT (255) (CD) (Old Berls Partnership) R Philips 8 11 8
١	4	11-2311	POLITICAL TOWER (46) (D) IG R 5 Nixon! R Nixon 10 11 1
	5 2	VF3B-41	ENSTHORPE (37) (CD) (Maron Broughoot) Mass H Progret 9 11 9
ı	1.0		- 6 declared -
ı	BEIT	INC: 5-2	Konvekte King. 100-80 Esethorps, 7-2 Political Tower, 4-1 Time Wen't Whit, 5
	Spend Revelle		
l	1996	it Clay Co	unty 11 11 12 A Maguire 5-4 (M Hammond) 3 ran
ł	1		
Į	!		USPACOV CYNNINGO OPEN NATIONAL WINT ELAT DAC

3.45 HAYDOCK STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RA

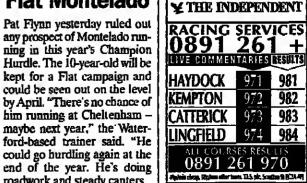
14 BALLAD MINISTREL (294) (CD) (G E Shouler) J Frederick 5 11 11 ______ P Carborry
1 COLOUR CODE (68) (6M Mesher) Mrs A Semberick 5 11 11 ______ Supple
5 COSY RIDE (39) (TD J Equine Supples Ltd) N Twistor-Davies 5 11 4 _____ C Lievellyn
BITD THE BLACK U Huckle) Mrs M Revise's 6 11 4 _____ P Neven
3 MERRY MASQUERADE (28) (G S Brown) Mrs M Revise's 6 11 4 _____ P Neven
5 MONSHEUR DARCY (20) (Lames R Adam) J Adam 6 11 4 _____ Refition
CHAMPS-GIRL (The First Trunsday Cuto) B Murroy 4 10 1 _____ W Daven
TA-RA-ABST (Paul Stringer) T West 4 10 1 _____ N Missenteen

- 8 Idecland -

BETTING: 11-10 Bullad Ministral, 11-8 Colour Code, 7-1 Cosy Ride, 10-1 Merry Masquerade, 14-1 Mousieur Darcy, Into The Block, 20-1 others
1996: Agistment 5 11 13 M Dwyer 11-1 U Fizderski) 20 san

Flat Montelado

any prospect of Montelado running in this year's Champion Hurdle. The 10-year-old will be kept for a Flat campaign and could be seen out on the level by April. "There's no chance of him running at Cheltenham maybe next year," the Waterford-based trainer said. "He could go hurdling again at the end of the year. He's doing roadwork and steady canters.



Wainwright's dual campaign begins

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT reports from Edinburgh

Roh Wainwright has said all the right things in all the right places as Scotland's captain during the build-up to this afternoon's Five Nations' Championship skirmish between Scotland and Wales at Murrayfield, diplomatically balancing his sympathy for the absent Kevin McKenzie with some positive support for the hooker's much criticised replacement. Graham Ellis. He has also avoided being drawn into the Lions trap. Lions? Never heard of them.

Not even Wainwright can ex-pect to get away with that one for too much longer, though. A strong performance in Edinhurgh today will establish him as the clear front-runner for the biggest honour in the British game: the Lions captaincy in South Africa this summer. Whether he likes it or lumps it, the army doctor from Perth will be playing for more than national pride over the next two and a half months.

"As far as I'm concerned, the 15 Scotsmen facing Wales will be totally focused on one thing and one thing only - representing their country and mak-ing sure of victory," he said vesterday. Yes, and Mike Tyson is taking up ballet.

Provided Wainwright stays ht - today's appearance is only his fifth since undergoing surgery on troublesome groin Africa."

M Wallace, Glasgow High/Yelvinside

The wing James Craig scored

three tries as Scotland A romped

to victory over Emerging Wales

The West of Scotland speed-

9/1 K Logan

14/1 S. Gibbs

12/1 G. Townsend

16/1 C. Chalmers

18/1 S. Hastings

in Edinhurgh vesterday.

A Stanger

S Hastings.

SCOTLAND v WALES

Hawick 14 | Evans

Watsonians 13 A Batema

Northampton 12 S Gibbs

Northampton 3 O Young

ster capitalised on shoddy the pitch Despite fielding 10 full

Green pastures.

Echoing valleys.

Welcome to the

Welsh defence.

(Scotland's victory by 16-20pts: 10/1.)

SCOTLAND V WALES

10/11 SCOTLAND 10/11 WALES (+4PTS) 14/1 TIE Forecast the score with Wales receiving a 4 point start. First Tryscorer | Whening Points Margin

18/1 No Tryscorer 18/1 Wales win by 16-20 points

IRELAND v FRANCE

ntowns Read. Kick of 3.00 pm. HANDICAP BETTING

19/11 IRELAND 10/11 FRANCE (-10PTS) 14/1 TIE
Forncast the score with treland receiving a 10 point start.

First Tryscore:
5/1 E. N'Tamack 6/1 Ireland win by 1-5 points

Above matches: other tryscorers and margins on request. Penalty trys do not count for first tryscorer.

These prices the have changed since this the was printed.
Your line we y ravelar prices, page cadarutes 1994 day outsit (CDI).

Ladbrokes

For a bet. Ladbrokes are favourite.

0800 524 524

4/1 Scotland win by 1-5 points 5/1 Scotland win by 6-10 points

13/2 Scotland win by 11-15 points

18/1 Scotland win by 16-20 points

18/1 Scotland win by 21-25 points

5/1 Wates win by 1-5 points

7/1 Wales win by 6-10 points

11/1 Wales win by 11-15 points

Ireland win by 6-10 points France win by 1-5 points France win by 6-10 points

11/2 France win by 0-10 points
11/2 France win by 1-5 points
4/1 France win by 11-15 points
5/1 France win by 16-20 points
7/1 France win by 16-20 points

. Wasps

and Achilles problems last autumn - the only way he will not claim a seat on the plane to Johannesburg is if his employers decide to slick him on a flight lo Sarajevo instead. He admitted yesterday that a summer tour of duty in Bosnia was a possibility, adding: "The Army are my main employers - I'm a semiprofessional rugby player, not a full-limer - and if they want to send me somewhere, I'm at their beck and call."

For all that, Fran Cotton and his fellow Lions selectors will he taking a deep interest in the versatile loose forward's performance against the Welsh. At this stage, Wainwright's most obvious rival for top spot in Spring-bok land is Jason Leonard, the England prop and vice-captain, with Martin Johnson, the England lock, in the stalls as a dark horse despite his lack of leader-

While Wainwright was playing down any talk of bigger and hetter things. Craig Chalmers felt able to put this afternoon's intriguing tussle into a more realistic Lions perspective. "The tour is something that will be on the minds of most of the players in the Five Nations," said Scotland's outside-half, who wins his 50th cap. "If it's not, I'll be deeply surprised. After all, it's

the pinnacle.
"The Five Nations matches are, in a way, trials for the Lions and I've been around long enough to know that any Scot not fully tuned in against Wales will not he going to South

Pontyorido

Cardiff, capt

weeping handling move.

More than 5,000 spectators

packed into Heriot's Former

Pupils' Goldenacre Ground,

including a sizeable Welsh con-

tingent who booed their side off

off in the country - Townsend, passed fit after Wednesday's neck strain alarm, plays in the centre - the Melrose linchpin needs to be at his most creative if the selectors' bold attacking policy is to hear fruit. But as he admitted yesterday: "Much depends on the kind of ball provided by the pack." There lies the ruh for the Scots. McKenzie's worryingly serious neck injury, diagnosed as a slipped disc requiring urgent surgery if it is not to dam-age the spinal cord, deprives the home side of their most ehullient and competitive forward:

the Welsh, confident of their

scrummaging strength and

equipped, on paper at least, to

squeeze their opponents in the

close exchanges, were not

exactly distraught at the prospect of facing a hooker and

Chalmers will be more tuned

in than most today. Uncom-

fortably aware of the fact that

many Scots consider Gregor Townsend to be the best stand-

a tight-head prop with one cap between them.
Wainwright was quick to commiserate with McKenzie. who will miss the rest of the season, but was even more keen to make Ellis, the 31-year-old Currie hooker, feel at home on the eve of his hig day. "It's dis-appointing to lose Kevin, bul Graham is every hit as committed a player and every hit as

hig a character." he said. Ellis received similar support from a more nnexpected source, erstwhile team-mate and sparring partner Damian Cronin. The pair fell out to such an extent during a training session on last summer's tour of New Zealand that they ended up throwing punches at each other. "I know how hard Graham has worked to get this chance and I'm sure he'll do well," said Cronin, a model of tact despite being dropped for

today's game.

The Scottish pack cannot afford the time to indulge in any handhag-swinging this afternoon. Pace will be of the essence for Wainwright's men; unless they can stretch their heavier opponents from one side of Murrayfield to another, last year's Grand Slam chal-



lief in the mystical qualities of the Welsh No 10 shirt. By the time the dust has settled on the Five Nations battleground of Murrayfield, we will know whether Arwel Camber Thomas is a magician or an He just may have backed a Thomas, just turned 22 but winner. Seven caps into his infar older than he looks, has split

Red Dragon rugby down the middle. For every believer who considers him to he a glorious throwback to the grand tradition of Carwyn, Dai, Barry, Phil and Jonathan - legendary Welsh stand-offs are only ever attitude department. referred to by their christian names - there is an agnostic who remains resolutely unconvinced.

His hurden is made all the heavier by the fact that the sorcerer himself, Jonathan Davies. is back in the national squad and itching to play. Indeed, the 34year-old maestro will be watching his young rival from the bench today, a startling role re-versal that has led the more pragmatic Welsh followers to question the sanity of their na-

But the Welsh coach, Kevin ly polite and scholarly tactician

hoping to establish himself as the latest in an illustrious line "To be honest, no one has

ever tried to inhibit me or put the block on the way I play and if they did, I probably wouldn't take a blind hit of notice. That

wasn't prepared'

of it. Besides, you have to ere-ate something with the ball in today's rugby because defences

are so well organised. "You can't work out everything on a hlackboard. Scott Gibbs scored a cracking try against the United States last weekend from a pass of mine

and the whole chain of events caught the Americans on the To be sure, Thomas personsettled now, more prepared for

ifies the art of rugby far more purist approach will almost certainly give the travelling le-gions of Welshmen a severe dose of the jitters today. He knows from bitter experience that in the eyes of the public, risks are worth taking only when they work; but then, he realised early that the stress of the win-or-hust approach went with the territory.

"I always wanted to play out-side-half for Wales, right from a little boy, and I knew from the start that the shirt carried a great tradition with pressures and expectations to match. I thought I knew what being No 10 entailed, but looking back on last season's Five Nations now, I realise I wasn't as prepared as I'd thought I was, either on or up very nicely," he said this off the pitch.

Suddenly, there were a mil-lion interviews to do. Suddenly, I had television cameras following me to college. When you're not used to that level of exposure, it hits you hard. You end up not knowing which way

At that point, Thomas was playing for Bristol in the Eng-lish First Division and living

whatever the next few months throw at me. "I don't regret my time at Bristol for a moment, though, 1 owe them for the fact that

won my first caps from the Memorial Ground and a season in the Courage League was important experience. It was instructive to face the Guscotts and Carlings of this world, get up close to them and discover that, yes, I could catch even players of their quality on the

hop if I got it right." If he gets it right against Scotland, the long-promised Welsh renaissance will have a more realistic feel to it than at any point

of the 1987 World Cup. "An away win in our first match would set everything week. "A defeat would mean another wave of negative pressure, with the selectors being pressed to chop and change the team.

High stakes indeed. Given the fragile nervous disposition of a passionate rugby nation, it is just as well that Arwel Thomas feels more comfortable & . 4 with those stakes than any of the thousands of red-scarved neu-



Arwel Thomas: Unpredictability Is his strength according to the Welsh coach, Kevin Bowring

Chris Hewett meets hut he had the hands to lake it Wales with his parents - "great cooking," he smiles - and ena Welsh stand-off joying a purple patch with his new club, Swansea. "I'm more

lengers could see this season's campaign falter at the first Craig leads way for Scots Welsh midfield play, twice in-tercepting passes and sprinting clear, and then rounding off a internationals and receiving ex-pert coaching from Mike Rud-dock and Paul Turner, Wales

were never in the game once Craig swooped for his opening score after 18 minutes. Scotland A's outside-half Scott Welsh chipped in with 21 points from his hoot, converting all six tries and adding three

penalty goals. Inspired by Craig's contri-Glasgow also blazed away for a first-half touchdown. Although the Wales outside-half Lec Jarvis kept the visitors in touch with two penalty goals. Scotland looked ready for a second-half onslaught when they reached

the hreak leading by 17-6.
Senior caps Andy Nicol and
Eric Peters, both of Bath, were prominent as further inroads were made deep into the Welsh defence. Craig completed his hat-trick with two tries in a sixminute spell before the Welsh supporters at last had something to cheer when the Llanelli lock Vernon Cooper ploughed over from close range. Wales' occasional attacking

limpses were mainly provided by the young Llanelli wing Garan Evans, who also displayed courage when he re-turned to the pitch - his head bandaged - after being stamped on in a first-half ruck.

Off In a Int's I-fluid Puck.
Scotland & B. Les; J. Croeg, A. Tort, P. Rouse,
C. Glasgow; S. Welch, A. Nool; G. Grahom, S.
Brotherstone, P. Winght, S. Camponell, S. Grimes,
E. Peters, C. Hoogi (Lapt), S. Holmes,
Emerging Walles: J. Tromas; G. Evans, I. Dawes,
N. Dawes Intaght, D. James; L. Jarvis, A. Moore;
N. Eynon, R. McShyde, S. John, V. Cooper, P.
Arnold, A. Gibbs, N. Thomas, C. Wyett.

Ireland, who won the Under-21 Triple Crown last season, were no match for the French in the first under-21 international played between the two countries at Donnybrook in Duhlin yesterday, losing 40-13. The French outside-half Julien Berthe got his side away to a good start with a drop goal af-ter three minutes and he then converted a try by centre Christophe Manas and added a penalty goal. For there on in it was one-way traffic coming from the direction of Paris.

Wales achieved their 10th win at Under-21 level over Scotland since the series hegan in 1987, and, with more careful finishing, might have established a higger winning margin than the 24-13 they posted at Goldenacre yesterday. The Welsh outside-half Shaun Connor marked himself out as a player for the future with an impressive performance.

fore disappearing into a pit of angst-ridden indecision in Duhlin. Now, 10 months on, Bowring is gamhling his reputation on a hunch that his protégé's rehabilitation is com-

ternational career, Thomas is so self-assured, so completely at ease with the unique demands of his uniquely pressurised position, that it is hard to believe any of his illustrious predecessors were better equipped in the "The way I see it, I'm in the side to play my natural game.

he says, acutely aware that there are legions of Welsh supporters who would prefer less imagination and more perspiration from their playmaker-in-'Obviously, any stand-off at this level has to be aware of the general game-plan and the var-

ious set moves incorporated within it, hut Kevin has made it clear to me and everyone else why he wants me involved; he sees my unpredictability as my Bowring, is Thomas's strength and he wants me to staunchest ally. The engaging-make things happen, play it off make things happen, play it off

is not me being arrogant or higheaded - no one knows it all and I value advice - but I have never seen rugby as a treadmill. I do it for the enjoyment, the thrill

'I thought I knew what being No 10 involved - looking back I realise I

which, if truth he told, was pretty awful. It was down

away from home for the first rotics staring down from the around his knees somewhere. time. Now, he is back in west stands,

Dounhe, the Dax centre, who

was knocked out during training

on Thursday. Since the intro-duction of tactical substitutions

in November, coaches have dab-

hled in dragging players off the pitch. "A rugby team must now be regarded as 21 players and we will be pushing people on the

pitch in the second half at rele-

as coaching guru between France

and England, is back with his fel-

fow countrymen demanding bet-

Pierre Villepreux, who drifts

vant times," Skrela said.

the important tight phases and in the loose. I hope to rekindle sary after the withdrawal of score a single try in losing to score a single try in losing to South Africa at the end of last year," he said. "Some players were shy of taking the responsi-hilities in attack and defence. We lost in France twice to the Springboks. If we are similarly tentative in away matches in the Five Na-

tions, we could suffer." Ireland have not heaten France anywhere since 1983. Duhlin's faithful at Lansdowne Road today will be looking to their latest import for a change in the prevailing winds of Irish

Thomas Cook

Ashton confident of rekindling Irish fury

the Irish fury and fire and also

to develop areas that the French

"International rugby is all about getting the basics right.

kicking your own goals and then doing something off the

cuff that ambushes the opposi-

tion. Iretand have occasionally

heen good at those skills - no-

tably when they heat England in 1993 and '94. We must ensure

that Ireland do that regularly."

Jean-Claude Skrela, the

French coach, says he will make

SNOW REPORT

will not be expecting.

reports from Duhlin

Brian Ashton's chances of tri-umphing in his first game as the

Ireland coach received a boost when the French centre Richard Dourthe withdrew with concussion on the eve of the Five Nations opener. He has been replaced by Stephane Glas, of the Bourgoin-Jallieu club.

It is a considerable blow to

France given Dourthe's strengths as a penetrating centre and defender as well as goalkicker. The outside-half Thomas Castaignede will take over the kicking duties. However, it is worth remembering that in this fixture in Paris last year Glas came on as a replacement midway through the first half and his partnership with Cas-taignede paved the way for France's 45-10 victory. Laurent Leffamand, already in Ireland with the France A team, will take have an outstanding pack wi the vacant place on the hench.

Bath a fortnight ago and was immediately snapped up as successor to Murray Kidd as coach of Ireland. Ashton led Bath to 10 trophies in the past seven years, but he has had his fair share of disappointments.

England lost twice in New Zealand in 1985 when he first took on his backroom coaching joh. He was also in charge dur-ing England's unsuccessful Five Nations campaign in 1986, quit-ting after the 29-10 loss in Paris. "I could not see any way forward for England then." he said. "But I really can see a way forward for Ireland now, I would not have taken the job if I were not optimistic. I have been with Ireland for only a week of squad work Limerick and Dublin, but I've o tablished an excellent relation ship with the players.
"We are convinced that y

can play a competitive game

Montferrar

ect 19 J-L Jordan

Agen, capt

IRELAND v FRANCE

at Lansdowne Road

Ballymena 14 E Ntamack

Northampton 12 T Castaignède

. Malone 13 S Glas

Garryowen 11 D Venditti

Harleguins, capt 2 M Dal Maso

. Bostol

Saracens 3 F Tournaire

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Board puts end to country hopping

Rugby Union

Test players will be making a life-long decision at the start of the next century when they make their first appearance for their country. The International Board yesterday tightened up the eligibility regulations to ensure that once a player appears in a Test match or for his country's A team, he cannot

switch his allegiance to another

The move immediately scup-IB regulations.

Any player now contemplat-

Leicester look to bounce back

Leicester coach Bob Dwyer is confident in his team's ability to put next week's European Cup final on the back burner when they take on Bristol at Welford Road today.

The Tigers were tamed by Northampton last Saturday and Dwyer puts that surprise 22-19 defeat down to a hangover from their cup semi-final success against Toulouse. "Some had one eye on the semi-final last week but we've taken a good dose of medicine," Dwyer said.

'Once hitten, twice shy.' Dwyer has no doubt about the importance of today's game. With Courage One leaders, Wasps, inactive and secondplaced Harlequins not playing until tomorrow, the Tigers have a glorious opportunity to regain pole position. "It's crucial," he said. "We've lost three games and we could possibly get away

Leicester give full dehuts to the South African stand-off Joel Stransky, who will step aside for Roh Liley against Brive in Cardiff next week, and 23-year-old prop Perry Freshwater, who deputises for the injured Graham Rowntree.

Bristol, without the Ireland internationals David Corkery and Paul Burke, are boosted by the return of England lock Simon Shaw and give a dehut to 20year-old winger Josh Lewsey.

pers the hopes of François Picnaar, the former South Africa captain now playing for Saracens, who this week expressed a desire to play for England by satisfying the 36-month residency clause under current

since September and have failed to beat the Tigers in seven encounters at Welford Road, "We know we're in a real doglight in the relegation zone but the squad

as quickly as possibly," their captain, Martin Corry, said. Sale are boosted by the return of player-coach John Mitchell. who has not played since October, for the short trip to Orrell. It will be their first outing since 7 December.

are determined to get out of that

Orrell, with only one win from 10 games, look doomed hut West Hartlepool have given themselves real hope with two successive wins as they travel to Gloucester seeking their first win in 14 away matches in the .

Gloucester, playing the second of four successive matches against teams below them, lost their first five marches but now find themselves aiming to surpass their previous record of five victories in a row.

Tomorrow the stars will be out at Southhury Road as Saracens take on second-placed Harlequins and Bath will aim to bounce back from their defeat at Quins when they meet Northampton at the Recreation Ground. Northampton decided to go ahead with the game despite the absence of four internationals: Scotland's Gregor Townsend

and the new rule becomes fully

effective in January 2000. Explaining the eligibility clampdown, the IB chairman Vernon Pugh said: "The issue was raised by Argentina's Carlos Tozzi.

"It reflects his union's concern about the loss of leading players to other countries and the strong belief that representing one's country should be

"We will be drafting the new regulation in such a way that players who are now qualifying for another country and have been living in a new country for a significant length of time will still be able to complete the *New Zealand felt that the

Samoan and Fijian players who are waiting to play for New Zealand might be inhibited. But it is a balanced judgment. "However, the South Sea Island nations will be delighted. They need to hurry their players

development of Western

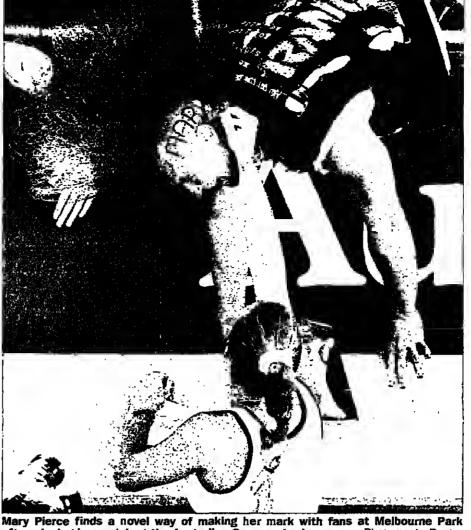
into a Test or second team to nail them down for life." The board have expanded the potential for advertising hy allowing logos on the pitch and increasing the half-time inter-

val from five to 10 minutes. In addition, Test referees will be appointed on ment in future instead of the previous situation which was a rota system, while the principle of Lions' tours

every four years was endorsed. Pugh said the decision to have a 10-minute hreak at halftime "recognised the increased pace of the game that has come with revised laws and full-time professionalism," He added; This and the pitch advertising were also dictated by commercial requirements."

The teams and match officials will be allowed to return to the dressing-room instead of having to stay on the pitch as at present. The venue for the World Cup in 2003 will he decided

early next year. Citings, trips to the "sin hin' and the red and yellow card systems were also discussed. Experiments will continue before and Matt Stewart and Ireland's a firm policy is implemented Jonathan Bell and Allen Clarke.



after winning her match at the Australian Open yesterday

Nines opportunity for Goulding

Rugby League

DAVE HADFIELD

The withdrawal of Keiron Cunningham from the Great Britain squad for the World Nines in Townsville, Australia, has created an unexpected opportunity for his St Helens team-mate, Bohhie Goulding. The Test hooker has pulled

out of this month's trip with a knee injury, leaving the squad's coach, Andy Gregory, needing a replacement from Saints, because of the restriction of one player per club.

Goulding is Gregory's first choice as a stand-in. He has played at hooker in the past and could certainly adapt to the role in a nine-a-side format. What is more doubtful is whether he is

in the right frame of mind for any type of rugby at the moment. Saints' captain says he is determined to leave the club if they

will not improve his contract. which has three years to run, and that he is to talk to other clubs next week. He has been linked with rugby union clubs, as well as league sides in Australia, but St Helens say they have had no approaches and that Goulding has not even asked them for a move.

The Great Britain captain, Andy Farrell, is hopeful of recovering from a stuhborn thigh strain in time to fly out with the squad next Friday. The Bradford Bulls full-back, Stuart Spruce, has been given permission to follow the rest of the party three days later, as he is getting married next Saturday.

There will be a host of new

faces on show tomorrow in a batch of pre-season friendlies Vince Fawcett and Brett Goldspink are expected to play for Oldham in the last game at the Watersheddings, while their opponents, Swinton, have three New Zealanders - Marlon Gardiner, Jason Walker and Gareth Adams - in line to make debuts.

Warrington and Salford will both field remodelled packs in the testimonial for Gary Sanderson at Wilderspool, and Leeds' recent signings - Dean Lawford. Ryan Sheridan and Anthony Farrell - will play against their former club when Sheffield Eagles visit Headingley.

The former Wigan full-back. Shaun Tyrer, is training with Leigh after being out of the game for two years because of a contract dispute with Whitehaven. I with play on the second day

Russell refuses to be beaten

Cricket

MARK BALDWIN reports from Hamilton, NZ

Jack Russell has vowed to fight on against the "monotony" of being the England winter tour's forgotten man. Russell, condemned to almost total inactivity by England's decision to use Alec Stewart as wicketkeeper-batsman in the Test side, has played only three oneday matches during the 55-day old campaign in Zimbabwe and

Tomorrow he appears for his old club Tukapuna in an Auckland League fixture - a move designed to give Russell much needed match practice. And the Gloucestershire wicketkeeper does not rule out a further appearance for the club he played for in 1983-85 if his situation does not change later in the tour.

Russell said: "The only time in my cricket career that I have expenenced such a long period of mactivity like this was during my very first England tour - to

Pakistan in 1987 - when I think I played one-and-a-half days'

cricket in eight weeks. "But I was a youngster then. learning my trade, and as you get older it gets harder to be on the sidelines. It has become a hit monotonous - it was great just to get out on to the field as a substitute fielder the other day

in Palmerston North. "There is only so much you can do with not after net, but 1 am still prepared to go through anything to get my England place back

"I told Mike Atherton the other day that I will be there when England need me. The management all know what I can offer, even though they don't choose to use that at the moment.

"I'm in a position at the moment where you have two options - give up or fight on, and I am not prepared to give up

Russell fixed up his club match after confirming that he would not be playing in England's four-day game against

Dravid's patient climb

South Africa 0-0

Rahul Dravid notched his maiden Test century yesterday, completing nine hours of hatting over two days to score 148 runs

and power India to a first-in-

nings total of 410 in the third

Test against South Africa. Dravid, 24, scored the fourthhighest individual total at the Wanderers Ground in Johannesburg as India started well in their bid to avoid a series sweep on South African soil. Dravid came on after an hour on the first day and lasted until the final delivery of the innings, a rising one from the South African captain Hansie Cronje which he stroked straight to Shaun Pollock.

Dravid had faced 362 delivries and hit only 21 boundaries. using patience and control to increase his score over 540 minutes. The morning session yesterday was cancelled by rain,

starting in the early afternoon. Sauray Ganguly teamed with Dravid for a 145-run partnership and scored 73 runs himself, while Javagal Srinath contributed 41 and Anil Kumble, 29.

The South African openers Andrew Hudson and Gary Kirsten looked at two balls before umpires called play for the

day due to poor light.
(Second as; Insis von toss
INDIA - First tinnings
(Dernight: 233-3)
V C Rainore e Ratherison to Atlants
IN Monge b Donald
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V S Laurnan retreed nurt
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Fall (cont): 4-245 5-266 6-327 7-403 8-408 9-410. Bowling: Donald 32.1-9-69-3 (w3); Polioch 30-11-55-0 (nb6); Michhitan 21,5-4-50-0; Albren-or 27-6-75-3 (nb3-w2); Adams 24-6-89-1; Conje 16,3-5-39-2. SOUTH AFRICA - First Innings A C Husson not out

To bat: A M Bacher, D J Cullman, "W J Cronje, B M McMillan, S M Policie, 10 J Rechardson, L Kusener, A A Donald, P Adams Bowling (to date): Sweets 0.2-0-0-0.

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FOOTBALL: As Coventry City's manager prepares to face up to his old club and his old boss, Glenn Moore spoke to him about life at the bottom of the Premiership and his own particular recipe for success at Highfield Road

Strachan relaxing into his new role.

someone like Rod Stewart has lasted so long, whether it's because he's changed his style or something. In fact it's hecause he works hard and is very good. That's why people last. That's why people arc successful for a long time. There is no secret."

It could be so neone talking about Gordon Strachan's longevity. It is actually Strachan talking about Mancbester United's consistency, Strachan, who graced Old Trafford from 1984 to 1989, hosts his ald club today as manager of Coventry City.

There is no danger of sentiment clouding his approach to the task.
"I'm not concerned with what they [United's supporters] think of me now, only what they think of me at Coventry," he said yesterday.

Strachan's ability to focus on what is important is nne of the reasons he is still able to play in the Premiership a month short of his 40th birthday. Alex Ferguson nnce described him as "a winner" and, asked how he would like his teams to play, Strachan answers simply "winning", "I handle defeat badly," he said, "When I hurt, I hurt badly

'I handle defeat badly. When I hurt, I hurt badly and it's there on my face for everyone to see'

and it shows on my face for everyone to see.

Ferguson, the man who sold him twice, flung tea-cups at him, and ad-mired him, said of Stracban: "He's only a diminutive guy but what a character. A strong man of a different kind. Good game or had the bottom line was that he always wanted the hall. Exactly the mental courage I appreciate. In fact, I demand it.

Yesterday Strachan was not in the mood to talk about Ferguson. Maybe he was not in the mood after a dozen similar requests this week; maybe his Old Trafford exit, within days of a disappointing performance in an FA Cup quarter-final defeat, still rankles. He had told the Independent two years ago that "we didn't dislike each oth-

er but I wouldn't say we got on well."
He did, however, tell the Covenry Evening Telegraph: "He is up there with all the greats. Not just for what he bas done for Manchester Unit-Aherdeen and St Mirren as well. Some people get hurned out, but Alex loves it and keeps going. What he has achieved is phenomenal. His self-motivation is phenomenal."

Ferguson is one of only six club managers Strachan has played under in a glittering 22-year career - less Dundee, David White.



than Paul Dickov has had at Arse-

nal and Manchester City this season. The significant others were Howard Wilkinson at Leeds - "they could not have picked a better man to be technical director" - Ron Atkinson, who signed him for Manchester United and Coventry, and his first manager at

Atkinson is still around havin been "promoted" to director of football when Stracban took over as manager in November. "I see the Big evant. It is just me really. The Man quite a lot, he's in every second day. We talk about players and different things. It's bandy to bave someone to bounce ideas off. He's quite involved.

"It is hard to say who's influenced me and how. The football and tacties when I set out are no longer relif you try and be something else they will see through it.

TEAM SHEET

Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Chelsea WWDWL; Derby LLIDD

With Clarke suspended and Duberry out for the season, Cheisea have called up teenager Hughes. Vialli is likely to stay on the bench. Derby's new Swedish striker Rahmberg is not match fit. Carbon stays in for injured defender Yates.

Last season: 0-4. Last five League matches: Coventry WWWDL; Man

Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Leicester DLDDL;

Leicester's record signing Eliott is set for his debut at centre-back, with Marshall playing in attack. Midfielder Lennon returns after a two-match ban,

Last season: 3-0. Last five League matches: Liverpool DDWLD; Aston Villa WLDDD

Redknapp may start for Liverpool with Thomas and Babb banned Barnes and

la's top scorer Yorke returns but Taylor, Draper and Staunton are ruled out.

Last season: 3-1. Last five League matches: Middlesbrough LWLLL;

Middlesbrough's new defender Festa could make debut. Kinder also stands by. Goalkeeper Roberts makes debut in place of Walsh (hand). Highert and Cox are suspended. Hirst could return for Wednesday as the only change.

Last season: 1-0. Last five League matches; Southampton LWLLW;

Le Tisser is likely to start for Southampton, with Benalt and Slater suspended. Dryden and Maddison may be recalled. Albert (harnstring) and Watson (heet) may be fit for Dalgish's first game in charge of Newcastle. Fertinand may play.

Last season: Did not play. Last five League matches: Sunderland LWLDW;

Sunderland striker Rae has completed ben and Bracewell (knee) could also return, defender Eriksson is available. Fitcroft is expected to stay in Black-

burn's mudfield in place of banned McVinlay in an unchanged team.

don hope to have striker Gayle will be fit.

be something better to do. On the whole it [management] is challengyour mind is ticking about this playing, stimulating, interesting, Strachan has said that if the strain

personality I project to players is me. of managing becomes too much he will walk away. "My family comes first ill see through it. and foremost, football a long, long way "There are good days and there behind. I can understand why Kenare days when you think there must by Dalglish and Kevin Keegan left.

Strachan, 40 next month, appears to have taken the opportunity of picking the team to retire again and his appearances now are very rare. "It's wonderful, I can wake up in the morning without the aches. But Γm still involved, I played for the reserves on Thursday.

something else it's nice, but if you start day-dreaming you find you are day-dreaming about foothall.
"I switch off by sitting in the house

watching telly. I watch all the

garbage, Family Fortunes, things like that. That can really switch you off

from football.

Adam Dent, who covers Coventry City for the Evening Telegraph. said of Strachan: "He seems to have changed, he is so laid back. He used to jump up and down a lot. He's been good to work with."

He has also done well after a difficult start. His first match was a home defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup to Endsleigh League Second Divi-sion strugglers Gillingham. "Not the ideal start," he admitted.

Having taken over with Coventry in the hottom three they then took one point from fonr Premiership games to go hottom. However, four successive victories carried

'We're going well' considering we're playing with 10 men for most of the games'

them to mid-table before a home draw with Sunderland and last week's 4-0 loss at Blackburn halted the surge. Dion Duhlin was sent off in hoth matches.

"We're going well considering we are playing with 10 men most of the games," Strachan said. "Once we get back to II I'm sure we'll be better. I've changed one of two things and steadied the ship a little."

Dent adds: "He's changed the de fence, except for Blackburn last week when be admitted he'd made a mistake by reverting to four. Playing Dublin there was a masterstroke and Paul Williams has been switched back to midfield to be a minder for Gary McAllister which has helped.

"The other good move was signing Darren Huckerby which has injected pace into the attack. He's done well as manager. I think supporters

have been pleasantly surprised." We have got this far without mentioning Strachan's famous dietary habits: hananas, porridge, seaweed pills, etc. Has he got the whole squad cating it now?

You cannot analyse everything in the game or listen to all the advice peo-"The food at the training ground ple want to throw at you. If you did got changed dramatically when I first that it would screw you up. It would came here as assistant manger," Strachan said. "They don't bave to "If you get totally involved with eat it - they can eat or go hungry."

manager, Steve McMahon, is

considering playing his first game for nearly a year. The former Liv-

crpool player has not started a

match since February because of

a back problem but is in the

frame to play against Bradford

Manchester City's new man-

ager, Frank Clark, will put his

friendship with the Huddersfield

manager. Brian Horton, to one

side as he aims for his first win

since taking charge in the match

Clark said: "I am looking for-

ward to seeing Brian but I will

at the McAlpine Stadium.

at the County Ground.

Ipswich Town No 201 by Mike Baker

Portman Road still holds one of the quietest and most stoical crowds around. They trudge in from Suffolk's market towns, arriving just minutes before kick-off, and leave early in beat the traffic. In between, they stand either silently appreciative or wearily resigned. Football may be more important than religinn at some grounds hut at Portman Road it ranks somewhere behind the state of the weather and the price of the car park.

This may be a response to the inconsistent form of George Burley's young team as the club tries to get used to life outside the Premiership. But Ipswich fans have never been a noisy lot. Even in the booligan days of the 1970s, visiting fans used to say you could take the wife and a picnic to Ipswich's North Stand.

I went to Portman Road in the Division Two championship season of 1967-68. My only experience of foothall crowds had been standing on the wonden terracing at Colchester United's Layer Road, and to this wide-eyed 11-yearold the Ipswich crowd seemed noisy enough. But when I moved away and watched football elsewhere. I realised how undemonstrative, fatalistic and phlegmatic Ipswich fans were.

Now I am a supporter-in-exile living in London. On my last visit to Portman Road they dented Crystal Palace's promotion hopes with a 3-1 win. Yet I had heard more singing and chanting at Chelsea reserves. My daughter, Londonborn and abowing an alarming leaning towards Wimbledon, was attending ber first Ipswich match. Even she was puzzled by the silence and kept asking me whether there was a club

You cannot have it all ways, though, and I am rather proud those glorious days.

of Ipswich for being a bit different. Passion may be lacking but so too are aggression and violence. They might mutter a bit when things are not going well, hut ipswich fans don't yell for their manager's head as soon as they go a goal down.
That could also he because

Ipswich is an island of sanity in an increasingly mnney-dominated game. Suffolk people are sensible with that folding stuff and would not stand for the inflated prices I endure in Londnn. I paid £28 for an ordinary ticket at Tottenham recently. At lpswich I bought four for the same price. OK, so two were for children and one for a pensioner, but even allowing for the difference between the Premiership and the First Division. that is a buge gap. No wonder Spurs supporters cannot afford in leave the ground early.

modern football, Ipswich may never make it back to the top. Along with other clubs like Norwich and QPR. Ipswich landed on the wrong side of the financial gap as the Premiership pulled away from the rest.

ing a team in the slow, steady Ipswich way. It is still one of the few clubs that allows its managers time to build success. It works too. Which rther club has produced two England managers of the likes of Sir Alf

As befits one of the best overlapping full-backs of his day. Burley has created a team that builds their attacks from the wide defensive skills of Mauricio Tarricco and Gus Uhlenbeek. The midfield does not yet have the vision of past Ipswich stars like Muhren, Talbot and Thijssen, or my own personal favourite Colin Viljoen, but Geraint Williams sometimes shows a touch of class from

MAJOR WEEKEND FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK Third Division Second Division

TODAY 3.0 unless stated **FA Carling Premiers**

2 Coventry v Man Utd.

6 Southampton v Newcastle. 7 Sunderland v Blackburn.

5 Middlesbrough v Sheffield Wed......

Leicester v

Wimbledon

Liverpool v Aston VIIIa

Middlesbro y Sheff Wed

Southampton v Newcastle

Blackburn

nderland v

Cheisea v Derby In the big-money world of Coventry v Man Utd

Yet George Burley is huild-

Ramsey and Bobby Robson?

Nationwide League First Division Barnsley v Ipswich

9 Birmingham v Reading 10 Bolton v Wolves . 11 Charlton v Stoke ...

12 Crystal Palace v Portsmouth. 13 Huddersfield v Man City.... 14 Norwich v Grimsby... 15 Oxford Utd v Tranmere. 18 Sheff Utd v Southend 17 Swindon v Bradford .. 18 West Bronwich v Oldham

Second Division 19 Blackpool v Crewe 20 Brentford v Bristol City.

29 Watsall v Bournemouth

21 Bristol Rovers v York 22 Luton v Wrezham 23 Notts County v Gillingham 24 Peterborough v Plymouth. 25 Preston v Watford . 28 Stockport v Millwall

35 Mansfield v Hull 36 Northampton v Chester 37 Rochdale v Cartiff... 38 Scarborough v Barnet . 39 Soundhorpe v Hereford.

31. Dadington v Cambridge Utd ..

30 Calchester v Catisle

33 Hartiepool v Doncaster

32 Exeter v Wigan ...

34 Lincoln v Brighton

- Swansea v Leyton Orient . - Torquey v Fulham . Bell's Scottish League **Premier Division** 40 Celtic v Hibernian .

42 Kilmarnock v Dunfennline

44 Raith v Aberdeen **First Division** 45 Airdrie v St Mirren 47 East Fife v Falkirk

48 Greenock Morton v Partick...

 Brechin v Berwick - Dumberton v Avr. Livingston v Clyde

 Stranger v Queen of the South Third Division - Artion Rovers v Montros

Alloa v Queen's Park ... - East Stirling v Ross County... - Forfar v Cowdenbeath - Inverness Cal Thistie v Arbroath

TOMORROW 3.0 unless stated

FA Carling Premiership Arsenal v Everton (4.0).....

Nationwide League First Division Port Vale v OPR (2.10)

 Matches this weekend are likely to be subject to pitch inspections. Please check before travelling.

tomorrow...

Everton

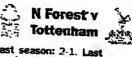
Coventry are without Ndlovu, Burrows, Hall, Genaux, O'Neill and Dublin, but Last five League matches: Ar senal LDDWL; Everton DLLLL striver Whelen returns. United full-back liven returns from injury but May is out. Johnsen and Pallister commue in central defence. Butt (instep) may return.

Tottenham Last season: 2-1. Last

five League matches: Forest WLDWW; Tottenham DDWLL Forest are likely to be unchanged as they chase a fourth successive victory. Player-manager Pearce is still without striker Campbell, vic-tim of a groin strain. Spurs' injury problems continue. Defender Scales is our for continue.

Arsenal v

Arsenal's top scorer Wright, who is vallable after a three-match ban, uss a slight calf strain but he is exected to be fit. Hartson is suspended. Everton's new signing Thomsen will make his debut in midfield, while defenders Watson, Short and Banett are included in the squad. Winger Kanchelskis



problems continue. Detender Scales is out for six weeks, An-derton, Armstrong and Shenigham will also be missing, along with Neilsen and Iversen,

Make or break for Wolves says McGhee

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

You never entirely switch off.

er, that player, somebody's problems.

literally send you up the wall.

The Wolves manager, Mark McGhee, has spelt out the importance of today's First Division meeting with Bolton at Burnden Park by claiming: "If we luse, then we can say goodbye to any hopes of the title."

Wanderers are lying fourth, 12 points behind leaders Bolton but with two matches in hand and McGhee feels a defeat will leave too much to catch up. But his side go into the game

having not been beaten un their travels since August, and can equal the club record of 11 away games without defeat at Bolton. Bolton's leading scorer. John McGinlay, is set to return after

nissing last weekend's match at Portsmouth with a calf strain. Second-placed Barnsley will be looking to keep up the pressure when they take on Ipswich Town, who may recall 39-year-old John

be trying my best for Man-chester City and we want a win as soon as possible. I'll have a drink with Brian afterwards but nur friendship will be for gotten for the 90 minutes."

Birmingham, at home to Reading have recalled their midfield player Jonathan Himt. Hunt, whn has not started a game since October, was top

Wark, while the Swindon playerscorer with 15 goals last season. Gascoigne playing with fire

Paul Gascoigne is to receive another warning from Rangers for his exaggerated goal celehrations. Gascoigne was pictured gesturing at Kilmarnock goalkeeper Dragoje Lekovic after scoring the equaliser in a 1-1 draw at Rugby Park on Wednesday.

Scottish football

"He knows the penalties for getting into bother in these situations," said Archie Knox, the Rangers assistant manager. "I think it was tit-for-tat with the goalkeeper the other night but Paul did apologise to Lekovic."

Gascoigne escaped action by referee Ken Clark and it looks unlikely that the Scottish Football Association will follow up

cards away from a three-match suspension but has managed to keep out of trouble for almost three months since his red card in Amsterdam.

Today Rangers meet Motherwell at Fir Park, and Walter Smith will resist the temptation to start with his £3m signing Sebastian Rozental from Chile. Rangers hope to have Erik Bo Andersen fit while Gordon Durie is hack in the squad.

Greg Miller, the son of former Hibernian manager Alex Miller, is in line for a starting place for Hibs at Celtic, who are looking for a fifth successive victory after closing the gap on Rangers in midweek from 11 points to nine with a game in hand. Pierre Van Hooijdonk will retain his place, with Paothe pictures. The England lo Di Canio, Andreas Thom player is a couple of yellow and Chris Hay all injured.

Newcastle DLWWD

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THE WAY

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RY 1997 - THE INDEPT

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> iWe're going ₩ considering wei playing with 1 men for mosts

e or break for s says McGhe

Sir John Hall's dream of winning the championship with a team of Geordies (and an honorary Geordie at the helm) is unrealistic

حكامن الاعل

out like a sore thumh among the crowd of well-wishers who assembled early outside the gates of St James' Park on Wednesday evening, "Gut-ted, I am," she admitted, "He walked out on two clubs, who's to say he won't do the same to us. We need a Geordie as our manager, not an outsider."

She'd got the facts wrong, as the man of the moment had explained. tersely, at the previous day's press conference. But her sentiments left us in no doubt as to the nature of Kenny Dalglish's crime: he is not, and could never be, a Geordic, And to some Geordies, that simply won't do.

Keegan, of course, was different. He was already accepted as a Geordie when he arrived to rescue the club from oblivion in 1991. However, the issue highlights a trend which seems to have developed, particularly in FA Cup didn't seem to bother him.

The voice of the Geordie lass stuck Newcastle, and even more so since Alan Shearer "came home" amid more hype than is afforded a royal wedding, which suggests that where players and managers are concerned, bome is where the heart is.

Those of us whose roots are a little more blurred round the edges than the average Geordie know this isn't true. Did David Beckham care that his double-whammy against Spurs was akio to plunging the knife in and twisting it? Did he hell. Yet Beckham was born in Leytonstone, just a long ball from White Hart Lane, trained with the club before winning a trip to a Bobby Charlton football school and falling for Maochester United, and has a grandfather who's a Spurs sea-son ticket holder. Kicking his boy-

hood club in the teeth and out of the

Maybe it's something unique about Geordies, hecause it certainly weighed heavy on Graham Fenton's conscience when he scored those two late Blackburn goals against Newcastle last season.

The reality is that Sir John Hall's dream of winning the championship with a team of Geordies (and an honorary Geordie at the helm) is romantic - but unrealistic.

There's no reason wby Bobby Robson, John Toshack, Peter Beardsley, Chris Waddle, Brian Little or Jimmy Nail or any other Geordie should have better credentials than Dalglish. Waddle (who was linked with the job "only because I'm a Geordic who did well there") says: "A board often looks to appoint someone with connections 'cos it's popular with the fans but they've really got no advantage over an outOlivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

sider; in fact people can expect too much from the return of a prodigal son." Brian Little, Harry Redknapp, Joe Royle, Stuart Pearce and Trevor Francis are among those who have returned to their roots - adopted or otherwise - and who carry the ac-

companying burden of expectation. Now Steve Bruce has been mooted as a possible replacement for Alex Ferguson, although he'll bave Bryan Robson to contend with first.

Likewise, it's naive to think that a team of Geordies would fare better than a mixed bag of players. Even if they did, the migration of players from club to club is too great to establish any notion of "the home-town team."

For a start, the scouting network is too top heavy: while big clubs can afford to scatter scouts far and wide, smaller clubs have to rely on their scraps. How else do you explain bow Brummie Marlon Broomes, young sweeper extraordinaire, ended up at Blackburn? How Nuneaton-born John Curtis, tipped as a future Eng-land captain, found his way to Manchester United, and bow Shearer himself was 26 before he went home?

among Premiership clubs, which betrays their more humble origins. The Dons have had to rely on a thriving youth system; not for Joe Kinnear the luxury of a bottomless pit of pounds.

It's really fans who support their home-town club through thick and thin who would like players to show lovalty, but fans are not always kind to their returning beroes. Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, recalls being appalled at the reception given to a player who returned with his new club to the scene of former crimes. But perhaps West Ham can boast a greater sense of loyalty than most clubs, having been brought up on players like Billy Bonds and Trevor Brooking, Brooking, who played 17 seasons in clarer

and blue, says: "The gulf in wages

Wimhledon have the highest pro- between clubs wasn't so hig portion of home-grown players then so the biggest criteria was enjoying your football, and loving the club." But players like Brooking. Celtic's Paul McStay and Portsmouth's Alan Knight remain the exceptions; most players will play

for whoever pays them.
Should we blame them? After all, to them it's a job, not a matter of life or death (even if the bype surrounding Keegan's departure contradicts that). It's that kind of pragmatism that explains how Dalglish could ruthlessly tear down his Rangers posters when the Celtic scouts came knocking. And if a true Bluenose like Dalglish can make a success out of playing for Celtic, be can make a success out of anything. So that lass oeed bave no worries: Newcastle have got the right man.

True blue Owen is a natural Red

NEW FACES FOR '97



Guv Hodgson on a striking Liverpool prodigy who could match the achievements of Hunt, Rush and Fowler

then Everton supporters reflect on years of de-flected misery courtesy of Liverpool's haul of honours, the knife is twisted a little bit more by what might bave been. Ian Rusb and Robbie Fowler were true-blue supporters as boys and, when they think of the £5.5m it cost to acquire Andrei Kanchelskis, so was Steve McManaman. Go to Liverpool's training

ground and an alien word is beard. When McManaman rises to head a ball he uses a name that is not Hunt, Toshack or Keegan but "Latchford" - Bob of Everton and England fame. He is harking to a schoolboy dream while casting embarrassment on the Goodison scouling system.

Rush, Fowler and McManaman are past and present misses to make an Evertonian weep, but there is little suggestion that the future will be better. Lurking in the ranks of Liverpool's youth and reserve teams is a Striker who, if his current scoring rate is anything to go by, is his ability rather than his better than Rush, Fowler - or Roger Hunt, for that matter.

Michael Owen, who turned 17 only last month, naturally supported Everton as a boy because his father, Terry, was on the books at Goodison in the 1960s. Born in Chester and now living in Hawarden, he first came to Liverpool's attention wheo he broke Rush's record of 72 goals for Decside Schools. His allegiance may have been directed towards one side of Stanley Park, but the attention

came from Anfield and he signed for the ecemy. His record over the last 12 months is astonishing. Last are wary of exposing Owen to

The San Francisco 49ers have named the University of California coach, Steve Manucci, as their new head coach in succession to George Seriert, who quit

Badimiraton

YONEX JAPAN DPEN (Toliyo) Solected results: Men's doubles, third round: Yap Kim Hock and Chesh Soon Kit (Malay) bt S Archer and C Hunt (Eng) 15-8 15-12. Mixed doubles, second round: P Arebson and C Bengisson (Swe) bt S Archer and J Wingit (Eng) 15-10 15-10.

GENERAL ACCIDENT UNDER-21 EUROPEAN TEAM CHALLENGE (Telford, Transstay): Desmark S England 2 (Eng names first): M Edge (Lanes) lost to T Sogaard 6-9 4-9 2-9; E Challen (Surrey): and S hardsleer (Ment) bt P Harder and B Andersen 6-9 9-6 9-1 2-9 9-4; I Suthan (Gloss and G Emms (Hens) lost to J Pittard (Warnacks) lost to M Rasmussen 3-4 4-9 0-9; M Constable (Warnacks) lost to M Rasmussen 3-4 4-9 0-9; M Constable (Warnacks) lost to M Rasmussen 3-4 4-9 0-9; M Constable (Warnacks) lost to K Odum 4-9 7-9 9-3 7-9; Sullivan and A Clark (Mosts) by Nassen and O Svestjur 9-7 9-2 9-7; Chaffer lost to Hader 9-2 9-2 3-9 4-8 3-9. Denmark win European Team Challenge.

Dennis Rodman of Chicago Bulls was suspended by the National Basketbell Association yesterday without pay for a minimum of 11 games and fined

side cameraman during Wednesday'a game against Minnesota Timberwolves.

game against Minnesota Timberwokes. NBA: Marru 102 Boston 94; Atlanta 78 Orlando 67; Houston 98 Secremento 80; Denver 88 Cleveland 87 (ot): Utah 95 Phoenia 91; Portord 102 LA Laless 98. THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Mem's Euro League Group 8: CSKA Mocow 67 Alba Berlin 69; Meccah fel Ave 87 Covarioru 69) 70; Stechnel Millan 73 Olympiakos (07) 71. Group P. Estudiartes (59) 67 Uliker Spor (Tur) 63; Teamsystem Boliogra (6: 90 Limoses (6: 76 7. 7-UP)

American football

spring be scored 11 goals is eight games - including a bat-trick against the holders Manchester United - as Liverpool won the FA Youth Cup for the first time in their history; in July he scored the winner over Belgium to earn England a place in the World Youth Cup finals this year, in October he got all four goals in England Under-18's win over Northern Ireland; in 26 club matches this season he bas

Fowler shaped (5ft 8in) rather than Rush (6ft) he looks like a man among boys when he plays with his peers because of

scored 31 times.

'His instincts took him where his :: colleagues could not follow, but he still got a hat-trick'

physique. Speed is what de-fenders fear, and Owen has plenty of it. Ally that to clinical finishing and runs off the ball that ought to be devised by an older head, and opponents become bemused.

Watching him against Burnley in the Youth Cup earlier in the season showed his teammates, too, bave problems keeping up. His instincts took him where his Liverpool colleagues could oot follow, but he still got a hat-trick, scoring with both feet, and he also had a beader against the bar. Liverpool, naturally enough,

Ed Glodins, the 25-year-old fast bowler who is banned from first-class cricket until April 1998 after testing positive for cocaine white playing for Sussex against Kent lest summer, hopes to play for the Kent League club, Bromley, this year. Bromley's mails, Gore Court, have issued a protest – they have been refused permission to sign Kenny Benjamin, the West Indian fast bowler, following new Kent League restrictions on international players. Gore Court claim these rules should also exclude Glddins, who has signed a contract for Warwickshire.

stened a contract for Warwickshire.

The Crystal Palace chairman, Ron

Noades, has announced a record net trading profit of £4,201,797 for the

using profit of £4,2UJ,197 for the club's trading year ending 30 June 1996. TRANSFERS: Vladineir Kinder (delender) Storen Breistrer (Storek) in Microsomogh (£1m); Deute Blook (engle) Fleth to Helman (£10,000); Pearl (forward) Artenei to Wycombe (undeclosed fee); John Hempshrey (defended £8mgrem to Brigton (undeclosed fee); John Blook (detailed £40-nder) Lincols to Essay fernificanced feel).

overblown expectation but the fact that they awarded him a first-team squad number as a Christmas present suggests they are ready to unveil their prodigy to the world, As Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said

this week: "If you're good enough, you're old enough," "Michael is a gem," Steve Heighway, the club's youth development officer, said. "He's very popular with the other lads and he is very strong mentally as well as being technically gifted. I've no donhts he's ready for the first team but the one thing he needs to do is carry on just as he has been." Owen has, with the brashness -

· of youth, said he is equipped to meet the demands of a first-team call that night come as soon as today, against Aston Villa. That: would make him Liverpool's youngest-ever debutant, something to turn any young man's head, although, so far, he has remained immune to the distractions that can divert the talents of a gifted youngster.

"I'm not going to get carried away," he told Liverpool's of-ficial magazine. "It's nice to be compared to the likes of Robhie Fowler but a lot of hard work lies ahead yet. Of course my dream for the future is to play for England, but I have a

When Rush left Anfield for Leeds last season, he could look over his shoulder and say: "I leave Liverpool in good hands. Robbie will probably eclipse all that I achieved." It is galling to think that Fowler, still only 21 himself, might be able to say the same thing about Owen. Particularly if you are an Everton supporter...



Michael Owen: Given a first-team squad number for Christmas

BOB HOPE CHRYSLER CLASSIC (Indian Wells, Calf) Liseding abcond round scores (US unless stated): 131 L Ranker 63 69; M Calcavecchie 64 67: 122 J D Blake 65 67: 133 P Coydos 65 68. 134 M O'Mears 68 96; T Tolles 65 69; R Cothan 66 69; L Memisce 66 68; S Gump 66 68; 135 J Capk 66 69; Selected: 141 S Lyle (GB) 67 74.

The Italian oil company Agp, former sponsors of Ferrari, is returning to For-

Brighon (unuselesed hee); Jeson Miliesti (deld-nider) Lincoln to Enter (undiscissed fee).

LOANS: Pieter Huistra (wager) Serfrects H-reshins (Jepen) to Lecester Cay: Tommy Wright (goslesper) (hottinghm Forest to Moncheser City: Stephes Howe (forwerd) Nottinghem Forest to Ib-switz, Teans Mollamen (goslesper) Prest to Ib-Darlingtor: Rinhard Hope (defender) Blackburn to Deringtory, John O'Kane (defender) Manchester Held In Bern Korke, Pilikenten (consispend Rallying DAKAR RALLY 13th stage (604lent, Nente to Kif-fa, Maruffamie): Cens: 1 H Masuola (Japan) Mit-subishi 4hr 17mm 10sec: 2 J Kleinschmidt (Ger)

A INTERNATIONALS: Intend 23 France 44 pt Domphroot, Dublin; Scotland 56 Wales 11 pt Goldenson, Edinburgh, UNDER-21 INTERNATIONALS: Intend 13 France 40 pt Angistes Paul, Esibbrings, Dublin; Scotland 13 Wales 24 pt Goldenson, Edinburgh.

A gimmer of hope that the French Ca-nadian yachtsman Gerry Roufs, who lost contact with the organisers of the Vendée Globe race 11 days ago, is still alive emerged last night when a Chilean air force plane made contact with a yacht in the area of Cape Hom. The visibility was so poor that it could not be identi-

fied as the 43-year old's 60ft Groupe LG2.

Skiing The French skier Adrien Duvillard yes-The French sloer Adrien Duvillard yes-terday suffered a serious accident in training for today's World Cup downhill in Wengen, Switzerland. Duvillard lost control coming off the final jump into the finish area and crashed into safe-ty netting near the place where Gernot Reinstadler of Austria was killed in 1991. An inconserious Davillard was flown to Reinstadler of Austria was killed in 1991. An unconscious Duvilland was flown to hospital in interlaken, where cranial tesions, broken ribs and a punctured fight

(rf) 2.13.75 12.06.53, 12.05.22). Leading giant statem World Cup standingt: 1 Compagnon 260om; 2 Wachter 240; 3 5 Parusania (ii) 215; 4 ii Secinger (Aut) 200; 5 Hovat 162. Leading owned World Cup standings: 1 Wiberg 923pts; 2 Sacings 69(9; 3 H Gag (Aut) 587; 4 Compagnon 495; 5 Wachter 445.

Speed skating Britain's Nicky Gooch and Matthew Jasper have failed in their attempts to reached the 1500 metres final at the European Sport Track Speed Skating Championships in Maimo, Sweden. Both

Maer's doubles, second round: K Kinneer and C Woodruff (US) bit D Princel and M Goether (Ger) well-over; D Johnson and F Mortzans (US) bit NO PAMA and C SUM (IC: Rep) 6-4 7-5; S Notaboom and F Wibser (Nam) in K Thome and J Weste (US) 18 Gent (US) and R Swint) Bath 6-1 7-6; L Lobo (Virg) and J Sanchez (Sp) bit W Arthus and J Iraland (Jus) 8-2 6-0; E PERREPAR, (84) & P GAL. BRATH (ISS) bit P McCroro (US) 8 S Stobe (Vus) 7-5-6-4; D DAMM (CF Reo) & A CULOVSOY (Rus) bit N Djordjene (Yug) & A Nucrov (Mac) 6-4-6-4; N BROAD (GB) & P NORVAL (SA) bit P Cash (Jus) 6-7-6-6-4; D Composition (CB) 8-7-7-6-6-3; T WOODERDGE & M WOODERDGE (Ja) bit N D Fisch 6-1 Modern (US) 6-0-3-6-6-1; P HARRIBUS 4, J ELTINGH (Neth) bit M Ondrusta 6-6 Stafford (SA) 6-3-6-4; M WOODERDGE (Ja) 6-10-7-6-6-1; Can) bit S Oraper (Jus) 8-8 Stoven INZ: 7-6-7-6.
Women's singles, third rounds 4-H/BER (Ger) bit N Zverses (Se) 6-3-6-7; N PO (US) bit R Harris (Jos) 6-3-6-8-7; N PO (US) bit R Harris (Jos) 6-3-6-8-7; N PO (US) bit R Harris (Jos) 6-3-6-8-7; N PO (US) bit N POODER (Jos) 16-6-7-6-8-7; N PO (JS) bit N POODER (JS) 17-30-0 retreet; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-3-6-7; N PO (JS) bit N POODER (JS) 17-34-6-6-1-10 retreet; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-3-6-7; N PO (US) bit N POODER (JS) 17-34-8-7-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-3-6-7-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-7-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-8-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-8-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-8-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-8-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-6-1-8-8-9; N Poetre First N M Korons (JS) 6-1-8-8-9; N Poetre

(Cer) 6-0 G-2; C MARTINEZ (Spi bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-0 G-1.

Wemen's doubles, first round: C RUBIN (US) & a SCHUTZ-McCARTHY (Netr) to A Roumbowe & ELishonsee Grus 6-2 G-3. Second round: N ARENDT (US) and M BOLLEGRAF (Netr) to X |
Let IUS) and IN Bedford (Jose) by A Elevande and R Zhubalose (Slova) 6-3 G-1; K Haboudose and R Zhubalose (Slova) 6-3 G-1; K Haboudose and R Zhubalose (Slova) 6-3 C-1; K Haboudose and R Zhubalose (Slova) 6-1; K Haboudose and R Zhubalose (Slova) by KADMAS (US) and M J FERMANDEZ (IS) 7-6 G-2. Park Sung-hee (S Kor) and Sh-Ting Wang (Toli to Y BASUN (Indo) and C VKS (Neth) 7-6 7-6; L McHEL and L WILD (US) bt X K Kroupova and E Metricarons (Cz Rep) 8-3 G-1; L DAVENPORT 6. RAYMOND (US) bt X. Nemectoas P Langras (Cz Royd 6-3 G-4; M HANBAS (Swin) 6 A G-4; Decenier (Slova) 6-7 G-7; N KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C Wood (93) 6-3 G-1; R Dregtom (Form) 6 S F
S FERNANDEZ (US) 8. (Majos (Cros) 6-3 T-6; N KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C Wood (93) 6-3 G-1; R KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C Wood (93) 6-3 G-1; R KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C Wood (93) 6-3 G-1; R KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C Wood (93) 6-3 G-1; R KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C Wood (93) 6-3 G-1; R KIIMALTIA 6. M MY/AG (Lagon) bt E De Lone (US) 6. C S-0.

Minged doubles, first roundt I Spirice (Rom) 8. D Ahnson (US) 15 A Futcher 6. H BOULE
GRAF (Neth) 6. R LEACH (US) bt A Fusci (F) 6. D Adams (SA) 7-5 7-5; L McNed (US) 6. B MecPhet

US) bt K ADAMS (US) 8. L PIMEN (Ba) 6-2 G-1.

Quick change for transfers

Ucfa, European football's ruling body, said vesterday that it wanted to have a new transfer system in place across the whole of Europe by the start of next season.

As the Independent revealed yesterday, plans to introduce changes in Britain are already well advanced. Under a new system outlined in a Football Association discussion paper, out-of-contract players over the age of 24 will be free to move to new clubs without transfer fees. As a result of the Bosman ruling last year, players out of contract already have the right to move without a fee to a club in another European country.

Although the FA said yesterday that it did not believe a new system would be in place this year, a Uefa spokesman said: "The idea is to have a new system before the new season. Obviously that is because there are a lot of transfers in Europe in the summer."

Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, said that the Bosman ruling had made change inevitable. "We simply can't ignore European law," he said. "The feeling is that any challenge to the domestic system would inevitably succeed and it would be naive to think that the current system can stay in place."

Taylor agreed that smaller clubs would be worried by the proposals, with players approaching the end of their contract reluctant to sign another one if they could see the prospect of negotiating their own moves without transfer fees.

The news was greeted enthusiastically by players' agents. One of them. Eric Hall, said: "I never got much of a Christmas present, but I got it today. This is a monster, monster present.

"It's about time too. When a contract's at an end, it's at an end, in football or showbusiness or whatever, it's up for negotiation. For me, it gives us more deals to do. The wages will go up and the money will go where it should to the stars, the players."

He added that some people will argue that small clubs will suffer. "Well, I say, it's hard cheese if small clubs go out of business. They should be shrewder in their judgements and manage their affairs better."

However, less affluent clubs, unable to commit themselves to long-term contracts for players. were less enthusiastic, Bill, Lodey, the secretary of Port Vale, said: "We've got players we've only just taken on at 23 and if we spend time nurturing them, only for them to leave freely, it's disappointing.

Evans after Dominguez

Liverpool hope to sign the Por- season in ruins. "I wear a heart tuguese winger Jose Doming-uez in a £2m deal this weekend. Roy Evans has been in contact with Dominguez's club, Sporting Lisbon, and is set to beat John Tosack's Deportivo La

Coruña to his signature. Ruud Gullit has failed with a hid to sign the Milan defender Paolo Maldini, but Chelsea have been rewarded with a prestigious friendly against their manager's old club oext month. However Chelsea's England under-21 defender Michael Duberry is out for the season after snapping his left Achilles tendon in training.

Jürgen Klinsmann said yesterday he received offers to return to England but rejected them to concentrate on winning the German title with Bayern Munich. "A few inquiries came but I rejected them all flatly," Klinsmann said. "I haven't thought about where I might go later.

The Manchester United and England defender Phil Neville has been speaking about the glandular fever that has left his monitor during training and it lets me know if I'm doing too much," be said. Neville was first laken ill on Christmas Day. Arsène Wenger has defended

himself against claims that Arsenal's signing of 17-year-old Nicolas Anelka from Paris St-Germain bad been underhand. "Uefa makes the rules and they have to be applied," Wenger said. "If Uefa decide we have the right to transfer him we will. If not we will publicly apologise."

Birmingham have signed Swedish wioger Anders Limpar from Everton until the end of the season in a £100,000 deal. Limpar is eligible for next week-end's FA Cup fourth-round game with Stockport, when he is expected to make his debut.

The battle for control of Nottingham Forest has intensified as the consortium involving author Phil Soar and former Spurs chairman Irving Scholar increased its bid, adding an extra £5m to its two separate offers each worth around £23m.

Venables' first test

When Terry Venables took over as the coach of Australia's Socceroos bis brief was to get the team through to oext year's World Cup finals in France, and compared with Brazil I would the first obstacle for his side is say Brazil are better, but if you the Optus World Soccer Series, a four-team tournament also involving New Zealand, South Korea and Norway.

It is all a far cry from last June's *Euro 96* semi-final against Germany, but it will give the former England coach his first real chance to assess the size of his task. Despite his team

sis that should be used, but instead oo somebody's opinion. "If you ask me how Australia look at Europe you could

equate the Australian standard

with Huogary or Austria."

"I do really feel encouraged since I've heen here," he said. "I've seen some good performances in games and in training. I can see these guys can play.

They're very fit boys and they've some good skills. All I'm

being giveo a Fifa ranking of saying is this gives them a good 48th. Venables is not perturbed: chance. These three games will "Tve always criticised the ratings belp me to assess it even more."

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FILMS LOSE THEIR EDGE UNLESS YOU WATCH THEM DN A SAMSUNG WIDESCREEN



critics against Scotland, page 28





Tim Henman was at full stretch but still lost in straight sets to Michael Chang in the third round of the Australian Open in Melbourne yesterday

Chang ends Henman charge

Tennis

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Melbourne

The scoreline and the statistics tota the full, sad story for Tim Henman yesterday as the world No 2, Michael Chang, progressed to the last 16 of the Australian Open here. A 6-1, 7-6, 6-3 victory for the 24-year-old American over Britain's rising star put Henman's superb start to the season in better perspective. He is good, but he is

Having added a big serve to his game, experience is now the main thing the 22-year-old Heuman needs and the lessons Jim Courier and Chang have taught him in his only two defeats this year should help him to fulfil his enormous potential.

Over the past three weeks, he has won 11 of 13 matches, moved up from 29th to 14th in the world rankings, reached his first ATP Tour final and then took his first title on the circuit.

"I always focus on the positive. I'll forget about this performance and think about the start to the year," he said. "It won t take me long to see I am moving in the right direction.
"I think I can learn from this match and I will get over the disappointment quickly. It was a bad day at the office. I played a poor match. It's as simple as that.

"It's always disappointing to lose, but it's more the manner of it. I don't think it's anything to do with nerves. I never real ly got anything going. I didn't serve well and that

makes life difficult. And I didn't get any rhythm on the baseline. At times I went for a little bit too much on certain shots and was making errors, yet having said the performance was poor. l could have been a set-all. After Chang ran away with

the last five games of the first set, Henman led 4-1 in the second and then, after losing his serve, broke again for 5-3. The record crowd, including a small, but noisy "Barmy Army", watched him serve for the set but the chance went in a flash. A volley over the baseline and three shots into the net gave Chang the game to love and last year's runner-up won the next four points as well to level.

Henman began the tie-break by double-faulting, one of six he had in the match, Chang won it easily 7-3 and, after seven games went with serve in the third set, Henman lost the next to love, double-faulting again to put Chang 5-3 ahead. Minutes later it was over.

He knew he was the underdog against the quickest man in tennis but Henman, a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon last year. knew be could have played much better. He got in only 45 per cent of his first serves, 14 per cent down on his second-round match with Guillaume Raoux. He served only three aces, com-

pared to 11 against Raoux.

points. Chang took five of his, Henman only two. Chang won 68 per cent of the points on his second serve, Henman a mere per cent of his. The British No I made 40 unforced errors compared to 14 of his opponent.

Chang, still to drop a set in the championship, was generous in victory. There were times when Tim hit some great forehands Both players had six break and he is a very talented player,"



Henman greets his conqueror Chang Photograph: Alisport he said after their first meeting. "he's still very young and has a very bright future ahead of him." Henman added: "That I

didn't take my chances adds to the frustration. The Barmy Army are always a great heip and I'm disappointed I didn't give them more to cheer. But it their presence] shows that I am beginning to make an impact.

It's been a busy time for me, but it's proving that all the work I'm doing off the court is ying avadends. I still teet tresh. He will nevertheless enjoy the short rest he is now taking. His next appearance is in Dubai next month. For the second round running Steffi Graf climbed out of a hole

to stay on course for a fifth Australian Open title. The world No 1 and top seed was 5-2 down to world No 98 Ines Gorrochategui but won the next five games and took the second set 6-3. On Wednesday Graf, now on a run of 45 successive victories

at the four major championships, lost the first fout games to Larisa Neiland and bad to save a set point before coming through 7-5, 6-2.

"I'm not happy with the way I am starting, but when it gets down to the important points I am focusing more." Graf said. "I just need to do it earlier." She ended Graf's 32-match un-

The fifth and seventh seeds Anke Huber and Lindsay Davenport respectively, had much easier days. Huber, her momer now out of hospital after collapsing at the tennis on Wednesday, beat Natasha Zvereva 7-5. 6-0 and Olympic champion Davenport overwhelmed Thailand's

Tamarine Tanasugarn 6-1, 6-0. The Wimbledon runner-up, Mal Washington, and minth seed Marcelo Rios of Chile, came back from a set down to advance to the last 16 of the men's singles. Washington beat Australian Todd Woodbridge 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, 6-I and Rios Austria's Gilbert

Schaller 4-6, 7-6, 6-1, 6-1. Unseeded Spaniard Carlos Moya, the man who knocked out the defending champion Boris Becker on Monday and who Britain's Tim Henman beat in the final in Sydney last Saturday, thrasbed German Bernd Karbacher in straight sets, dropping just two games in each.

Britain's Neil Broad, with whom Henman won Olympic silver in Atlanta, reached the last 16 of the men's doubles with South African Piet Norval. The 16th seeds beat Pat Cash and Czech Petr Korda 6-7, 7-6, 6-3. next plays 12th seed Amanda Mary Pierce photograph, page 29

Robson on mission improbable

Football

GUY HODGSON

Managers struggling to find the right words to put to their charges before today's match-es have one consolation; things could be a lot worse, they could be Bryan Robson.

What does the Middlesbrough player-manager say to encourage hope where there ap-pears to be none? Bottom of the table, seven points addit of a position of safety and with just one win in their last 16 Premiership matches, Boro are lurching, from problem to problem like a tipsy agony aunt.

The mood among the players, if only a fraction of what you read in the papers is correct, is less than wholesome while rumours about Robson's position circulate round Teesside with a vengeance. Last week the club had to deny he was resigning yesterday there was talk that Bruce Rioch was

joining the backroom staff. Meanwhile Fabrizio Ravanelli, whose nickname has changed locally from the white feather to the white flag, was quoted in Italian newspapers saying he wanted to return to Juventus. "I'm not escaping," be told La Repubblica.
"I'm not a traitor. I want to leave my club in the Premier League where I found it. In June, well. it will be different. Fabrizio Ravanelli has stayed a Juventino and

All of which has come on top of the Premier League docking Boro three points for failing to fulfil their fixture at Blackburn. so you could say spirits bave been better as they prepare to meet Sheffield Wednesday, who are 13 games into an unbeaten run.

"It's been a disappointing week for everyone," Robson said, "but there's no point in moping, we have to get on with the job. If we lie down there's going to be only one outcome and that's defeat.

Wednesday are a good passing team. David Pleat has got them well organised and at the moment they're on a good run. They're difficult opponents but we've had three prints taken off us and the sooner we get them back the better.

Robson has the consolation of being able to field his new £2.7m Italian defender, Gianluca Festa, but such is the way things are going at the moment, his arrival will be more than matched by suspensions to Neil Cox and Craig Hignett. Wednesday must decide whether to include David Hirst and Jon Newsome from

Liverpool and Aston Villa as they prepare to meet at Anfield The home team will be without John Barnes and Neil Ruddock because of injury and Michael Thomas and Phil Babb through suspension, while Villa are so short of midfield players that even Sasa Curcic persona non grata since his moving from Bolton was the higgest mistake of my life"

Thousand

comment - may play.

Liverpool have taken just 10 points from their last seven bome games and will lose their hold on the top of the Pre-miership if they draw today and Manchester United win at Coventry. Nevertheless, Brian Little is more concerned by that run rather than uplifted by it.

"Liverpool are in a bad spell," the Villa manager said, "and I'm always wary of teams in bad spells. That's when they are at their most dangerous. The game is absolutely massive for us. We could go 10 points behind which would be a lot to make up on a team like Liver-pool. On the other hand if we win we'll be in a useful position."

As for £4m signing Curcic Little added: "I had a good talk with his people and now Purky ing to get to the root of the problem. Something has clearly upset him, and I've got a rough idea what it is."

Kenny Dalglish should also have a better idea about Newcastle United's problems after today's match at Southampton, his first Premiership game since taking over from Kevin

Dalglish has a reputation for being more roundhead than his cavalier predecessor but his message vesterday was med the new boss, same as the old boss, "You can only ask the ringers to play in a way that sails them," be said. "There won't be anything ripped up and thrown

away on the scrapheap." Coventry have had problems: breaching that gap, no matter how sarrow, and they will be without Dion Dublin for today's visit of Mancbester United; and the forsecable future. He misses seven matches after being sent off twice in two weeks. while the visitors will be without David May who has a ber nia operation today. Dennis Irwin returns for the champions.

Leicester's Matt Ellion club record £1.6m signing will make his debut against. Wimbledon while Chelsea, who meet Derby, learned yesterday that their England Under-21 defender Michael Duberry will be the start.

Luxury of choice is beyond missing for the rest of the season with an Achilles injury.

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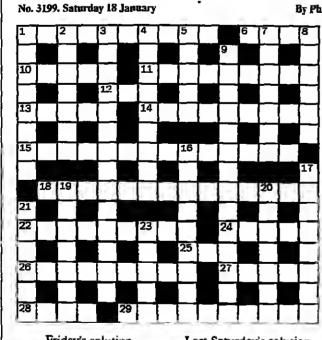
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THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

Mistakenly look stern about very good indication of affection (6, 4)

Odds on mother keeping back meat (4) 10 A little decency nicely smissed by me? (5) 11 Composer coming from marsh with another com-

poser (9) 12 The sound of people wait-

ing to visit gardens (3) 13 Annoyed old king, trapped in a US city (5) Russian author depicting group of soldiers in love.

not battling (9) 15 Less stuffy song prepared? 18 Early German resident deducible from a handle

remnant, possibly (11,3) dard number of years in history" (9) 24 Country estate feeling very

damp and unpleasant, ultimately (5) 25 Joke that's not entirely weak (3) 26 One play is restaged in Pa-

cific islands (9) 27 Take in extremely new golf-course... (5) ... being unhappy about new hazard there! (4) 29 Rating fools "blokes in the

DOWN Appear short of time,

alas! (4-1-3) Condiment – very in vogue, on the up-turn (7) But they're not actually on the San Andreas fault! (5,

News showing King cur-rently left on border (9) Name a price for lidless box (5) Talk from conductor un-

der piano (7) Desert area doctor wants to own (6) Initially pseudo relation

i/c son may be this? (2, 4. 16 Prominent feature of book is honour given to court attendant (5, 4)

17 Diana's abandoning vague intuition (8) 19 Letter causing English no specch problem, on reflection (7)

20 Might used to suppress Slav's springtime symbol 21 A department's skilled

workforce? (6) 23 Does wrong taking top off parts of church (5)

Way (10)

The first the correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardbacked copies of the new Ordord Dictionary of Quotations, Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday, Send solutions to Saturday, Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Picase use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: Tom Corlett, Pinner; Robert Twigs, Doddington; Dupne Thompson, Attleborough; P. Richards, Ellistown; Gerald Cowham, Honley.

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Time for Bowring to deliver results

Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT Kevin Bowring has yet to re-ceive a vote of no confidence

from his employers at Cardiff Arms Park, so the Welsh coach's job looks more secure than most at the moment. That cosy situation is likely to

change if Wales come unstuck in Edinburgh today: a sixth successive defeat in Scotland will intensify the clamour for another cull of the Red Dragons' top hrass. Bowring yesterday was quick to dispel any notion that he might be under more pressure than usual; "I've signed a four-year contract that takes me through to 1999.

There is a growing feeling in Welsh circles that he needs a minimum 50 per cent return from this season's Five Nations if he is to survive. The opener at Murrayfield repre- makers have it right - Ladbrokes sents a golden opportunity for were quoting Wales as 11-8 outthe Welsb to bring to an end a siders yesterday with the Scots

in the 1990s, but have not won at Twickenham since 1988, at Murrayfield since 1985 or in Paris since 1975. The rank and file supporters are unusually optimistic this season, thanks to the return of Scott Gibbs, Allan Bateman, David Young, Scott Quinnell and Jonathan Davies from rughy league.

Bowring knows he has to de-liver quickly. "We have made steady progress over the last year or so by playing the top sides in the world and learning something from each defeat. But that is no longer enough; it is now vital that we produce results." Bowring has found success an

elusive commodity since taking over as coach 14 months ago: a record of five wins in 13 Tests two of them against Italy, one over the United States and another against an under-strength Barbarians mish-mash - leaves him badly exposed. If the bookbarren run away from home. at 4-7 - that vote of confidence may not be long in coming.

In Monday's 28-page sports section



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Eight-page Super Bowl supplement Comprehensive guide to next Sunday's

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